Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Moscow, Kiev Seek Release of Peacekeeping Troops in Bosnia

LD0312082894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0756 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Organisation December 3 TASS—Russia and Ukraine demand the release of all the peacekeeping troops, captured in Bosnia, says a joint report of the Russian and Ukrainian permanent missions at the UN, circulated by the UN headquarters on Friday night.

"Russia and Ukraine, as the countries which provided their troops for the UN P otection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia, are deeply concerned over the restrictions, imposed on the UNPROFOR personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They point to the need for ensuring full security of the UNPROFOR personnel and emphatically demand the immediate release of all peacekeeping troops, whose freedom of movement was restricted, or who were arrested or detained," the report said.

Russia and Ukraine stressed "the impermissibility of any actions, no matter tho resorts to them, which hamper the fulfilment of its mandate by UNPROFOR." They urged the conflicting parties to "respect the safety and freedom of movement of UNPROFOR, as well as their free access to the needed deliveries."

"Russia and Ukraine hope that the UN Secretary-General and the UNPROFOR command will take all steps needed for ensuring the release of all the arrested or detained UNPROFOR personnel."

Diplomat: Bosnian Serbs May Be Allowed Restored FRY Ties

LD0212154394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is likely that at its meeting in Brussels on Friday (at approximately 7 p.m. Moscow time) the Contact Group on Bosnia at the level of foreign ministers will grant the right to Bosnian Serbs to restore confederative relations with Belgrade. This statement was made in an interview with Interfax by a senior Russian diplomat in Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's entourage.

He said that Russia favors all sides in the Bosnian conflict receiving equal rights.

The right of Moslems and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina to have confederative contacts with Zagreb has been fixed. It is time now to recognize the similar right of the Bosnian Serbs, said the diplomat. He stressed that "confederative contacts between the Moslem-Croatian federation and Zagreb, and the Bosnian Serbs with Belgrade should in no way violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina. These are indispensable conditions."

According to the diplomat, "most of Russia's European partners in the Contact Group agree, to this or that degree, with the need to reject double standards and fix equal rights for the Bosnian sides."

"The United States is standing by itself but it seems the position of the Americans is developing in an evolutionary manner," he said. "The meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Brussels both in private and within the framework of the Council of the North Atlantic Cooperation on Friday, as we hope, will help the Contact Group to preserve unity and take a decision acceptable for all."

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CIS May Post Monitors in Chechnya

LD0212152794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] General Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the CIS Defence Ministers Council, does not rule out the possibility of a group of military observers from Commonwealth states to be send into Chechnya. At the same time, he considers it "undesirable" for other CIS countries to take part in a possible solution militarily by coercion.

"Russia has enough means for that," Ivashov stressed in an interview with Interfax Friday.

He noted that "the conflict in Chechnya is an internal affair of Russia, and participation of observers from CIS is only possible with an appropriate request from Russia's top political leadership."

In Ivashov's opinion, for stability in that North Caucasus republic it is necessary to apply "collective political efforts to prevent the conflict from spreading and to keep armed forces from being drawn into it."

"If political steps are not crowned with success, other actions are quite possible—a group of military observers, peace-keeping forces," Ivashov said and noted that "among CIS countries, Russia's peace-keeping forces are best trained."

Baltic Foreign Ministers' Meeting With Christopher Noted

WS0512114694 Tallinn BNS in English 1609 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Brussels, Dec 3, BNS—Foreign ministers of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, in a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Saturday [3 December], reaffirmed the wish of their countries to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The same wish was expressed by East European states' foreign ministers.

Christopher explained at the beginning of the meeting that his aim was to exchange ideas about NATO enlargement with potential member states. Such meetings with leaders of East European states would become regular, he said. [passage omitted]

Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik said in the meeting with Christopher that NATO should view its enlargement in the context of European Union expansion. At the same time, he rejected claims that no one could guarantee the security of the Baltic states, the Foreign Ministry reports.

"The decision to defend one or another state is a matter of political will, not a military issue," he said.

In Luik's words, the integration of the Baltic states into the NATO would also benefit Russia, as their security would form a basis for stable relations between the Balts and their eastern neighbor. The foreign minister also underscored the importance of the bilateral relations between Estonia and the United States in the context of building up the Baltic nation's defense forces. [passage omitted]

General on 'Fruitful' Meeting

LD0212140194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference by Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the council of the CIS defense ministers, was held today at the CIS joint armed forces' general staff headquarters in Moscow. It was devoted to the results of the routine sitting of the heads of the CIS defense ministries. According to Ivashov, the sitting examined questions of materiel, technical, and financial provision for the peacekeeping action in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. As a result, it was decided that Russia will bear the main expense for the peacekeeping operation in this region and other CIS countries will take part in this provision on share basis, according to their economic means. General Ivashov went on stressing that the sitting has reached an agreement to extend the powers of the commander of the CIS joint peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. From now on, if necessary, he will be able to use in combat actions the units of the military contingents of the CIS countries deployed in the republic. And he can do this without getting a prior agreement from their government. He is also given a right to use border troops for operations along the Tajik border.

In conclusion, Ivashov thought the conference of the CIS defense ministers was more fruitful than all the previous ones. This, he noted, is a clear sign of striving toward integration.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 3 Dec

LD0312071394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0631 GMT 3 Dec 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 3 TASS—Newspapers highlight today the situation in Chechnya and around it. An IZVESTIA correspondent reports from Groznyy that air attacks on the Chechen capital intensified. They take place both day and night. The main bombing targets are the airfield, the airport and areas of deploymenht of Dudayev's supporters. The local population also gets its share, however. According to the journalist, weapons continue to be distributed amoung volunteers despite the presence of a russian parliamentary delegation in the city.

The newspaper carries an article entitled "Chechen Knot: Are We on the Threshold of a War?", prepared by its analytical centre. It stresses that in conditions of

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Chechnya a military victory cannot lead to a political solution. "Any administration, brought to Groznyy, will be viewed as an occupation administration and will collapse as soon as the last Russian tank leaves Chechnya. An invasion will make the Chechen opposition face the alternative: either to join the nationwide resistance movement or to turn into traitors, despised and hated by all."

In the opinion of a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer, the main mistake of the Moscow politicians who tackled the Chechen problem was that they relied too much on a possibility that the crisis would be settled gradually all by itself. Chechnya actually turned into a huge smuggling centre: The population, deprived of an opportunity to make their living by honest work, began to take part in the duty-free smuggling of goods to Russia and the CIS from abroad. Chechnya became a vast territory, controlled by criminal clans, the journalist points out.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article by Yaragiy Mamodayev, head of the government of popular confidence, prime minister of the Chechen Republic, under the "View Point" heading. He believes that Dudayev's autarchic regime is living through a deep crisis without any prospects of overcoming it. "Dudayev himself has become a hostage of the mafia-political groups, which defend not him or the will of the people, but their own clan interests," Yaragiy Mamodayev writes.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes an article entitled "General Grachev betrays his lieutenants", which says that the minister demonstrated complete ignorance of what is going on in Chechnya and each time put forward new versions. "First he said that the servicemen, who took part in the attack on Groznyy, were reserve officers, then he called them officers on leave or just mercenaries," the newspaper writes. The newspaper maintains that it has information at its disposal, which shows that the selection and training of servicemen to be sent to Chechnya were held with the knowledge of top-rank Army officers. A senior official of the Russian Defence Ministry contacted the editors and, speaking on conditions of anonymity, "actually told them about the real circumstance of sending Russian servicemen to Chechnya."

A CSCE summit will be held in Budapest on December 5. It will be attended by the Russian and American presidents. ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin. He warns against the danger of the attempts to resolve the problems facing Europe without the participation of Russia. In his opinion, CSCE is "the only adequate instrument of settling conflict situations in Europe, which is capable of responding to crisis situation in a more flexible and prompt way."

ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA believes that the victory of Bosnian Serbs in the Bihac battle "created conditions for a new approach to the peaceful settlement in Bosnia and changed a political situation in Europe."

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Yeltsin Makes Statement Before Leaving for Budapest

LD0412150494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1311 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Dec—"Russia is against the North Atlantic Alliance expanding the sphere of its influence to the east since NATO's boundaries will then approach the borders of the Russian Federation," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said today before departing for Budapest to attend the CSCE summit.

"The two blocs we have just left behind us would reappear in Europe and this would certainly not benefit European security," he added.

Boris Yeltsin said issues of the European security in the 21st century will be the focus of attention at the CSCE summit which opens tomorrow.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1255 GMT on 4 December adds: "Russian President Boris Yeltsin told journalists at the airport: 'Our position in respect of the CSCE is that the role and effectiveness of the work of this organization should be enhanced. It should be not a conference but an effective organization.'

["This afternoon he left by air for Budapest to take part in the meeting of CSCE heads of state and government which is opening in the Hungarian capital.

"In Budapest 'my actions will be based on these standpoints,' Boris Yeltsin went on to say. 'There will, of course, be many views, and they can vary, but we hope that the other European leaders will also share the Russian approach,' he said."

At 1324 GMT Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian adds: "In reply to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent before he left today by air for Budapest Russian President Boris Yeltsin said: 'In Budapest I will have too little time for bilateral meetings, but I will endeavor to have a talk with the FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President Francois Mitterrand, and other of my counterparts.'

"He said: 'In the main we will discuss strengthening the role of the CSCE and enhancing security in the continent. We will set out our position on this problem and touch on relations between Russia and NATO.'.

"The Russian president noted: 'Nor, of course, will we fail to give attention to economic issues. We must analyze what progress we have made in implementing the cooperation programs adopted during our previous meetings.'"]

Yeltsin Arrives in Budapest

LD0412162394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1540 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Budapest, 4 Dec—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today arrived in Budapest to take part in the summit of the heads of state and government of the member-states of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe that opens there on 5 December.

On the tarmac at the Ferihegy airport in Budapest, Yeltsin was met by Hungarian Interior Minister Gabor Kuncze, Russian Ambassador to Hungary Ivan Aboimov, and other officials.

Also today, the Russian president will have a meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Horn and President Arpad Goencz.

Addresses CSCE Summit

LD0512103694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0910 GMT 5 Dec 94

[Address by Russia's President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin at CSCE Summit in Budapest—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Chairman, esteemed colleagues. First and foremost I would like to thank Hungary's leaders for their excellent preparation of our meeting and for their hospitality. We see the fact that this meeting is being held in Budapest as recognition of the growing role of Central European countries in European politics. Two years ago in Helsinki, we confirmed our strategic aim of creating a common space for security and cooperation among free democratic states. The principles of Helsinki have stood the test of time. Today they provide a guarantee of the inviolability of borders in Europe, and they form a basis for coordinated actions in the interests of security and democracy.

However, let us be honest in admitting that there are often discrepancies between our actions and adopted declarations. Europe, even before it has managed to shrug off the legacy of the Cold War, is risking encumbering itself with a cold peace. How are we to avoid such a turn of events? That is the question we are obliged to tackle. History provides proof that it is a dangerous delusion to consider that the destinies of continents and of the world community as a whole can be decided from any one capital alone. Blocs and coalitions will likewise not provide genuine security guarantees. What has become a vital essential in Europe is the creation of a full-blooded pan-European organization with a firm juridical basis.

Russia believes that the activities of such an organization should be founded on a jointly elaborated program for Europe leading into the 21st century. And the essence of it is the creation of a comprehensive common European system of security. The leaders of more than 50 of the world's states are in this hall. The CSCE is a unique structure within the number of countries it embraces and the potential of its participants. It is called upon to become a strong and effective instrument of peace, stability, and democracy. This is no easy path, but it cannot be a long one either. It is desirable that in two

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years time, when we have gathered again, we will have discussed and ratified the model for the security of a future Europe.

How does Russia, the country which is destined to be the eastern buttress of European security and stability, see this model? The tightly knit fabric of a bilateral agreement on good-neighborliness and cooperation among the participants in the CSCE in all spheres could become the basis for a common European system of security. We need mutual, criss-crossing guarantees of security between individual states or groups of states. Russia is ready to discuss the guarantees of a bilateral or multilateral order. Common European institutions could be created on this basis. There task would be to resolve disputes, and averting and settling conflicts in their early stages.

The decisions adopted today will provide a good start for joint work for the sake of a stable and democratic Europe. First and foremost, I have in mind the military and political sphere. For the first time we are laying the foundation for a single expanse of trust in the military sphere, which covers a considerable part of three continents and the world ocean. For the first time, a code of behavior among states in the military and political sphere is being adopted. It registers the important principle of a law-based state, of democratic and political monitoring of the armed forces, and their utilization. Russia fully supports these decisions.

We assembled here in this auditorium are very different but confess common values. We adhere to a single principle. By respecting the interests and stands of all the CSCE participants, Russia is also reckoning on its interests being taken into account. In our country questions are being asked. How, for example, will the process of change in the CSCE correlate with the transformation of the current security structures? We are concerned at the changes taking place in NATO. What will this mean for Russia? NATO was set up in the cold war era. Today it is not without difficulty looking to find its place in the new Europe. It is important that this search should not create new demarcation lines, but bring European unity closer. In our view, the plans for NATO expansion run counter to this logic. Why sow the seeds of mistrust, after all we are no longer enemies, we are effectively all partners.

We hear explanations saying that it is, they say, an expansion of stability, in case of any undesirable development of events in Russia. If this is why they want to move the NATO frontier of responsibility nearer to the borders of Russia, I have one thing to say: it is too soon to bury democracy in Russia.

There is no need to repeat the errors of the past. No single major country is going to live according to the laws of isolation, and will reject any such game.

Esteemed Mr. Chairman, the very best of our intentions to build a single democratic Europe will sink into oblivion if they are not turned into real actions. What should the CSCE be aiming for, first and foremost? First and foremost, at ensuring human rights, minority rights, and curbing aggressive nationalism. Such efforts are clearly insufficient today. This is acutely felt by millions of Russians in certain CIS and certain Baltic countries; the infringement of their rights is being manifested in more and more ways. For example, of late, oppression of the Orthodox Church has been increasing in the Baltic countries, particularly in Estonia. It is essential for all CSCE countries to be guided by the spirit and letter of the UN declaration on the rights of individuals belonging to national, ethnic, religious, or language minorities, and the CSCE declaration on aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, and anti-semitism.

The Council of Europe plays an important role in safeguarding human rights on the continent. Making the Council genuinely Europe- wide is on the conference agenda. Russia's early entry into it will facilitate this.

It is a pressing task for us to give the CSCE an active peacekeeping potential. Our country perhaps feels the need for this more than anyone else in Europe. In fulfilling our duty as a peacekeeper, Russia is concerned to share with our UN and CSCE partners political and material responsibility in peacekeeping operations, be they in Karabakh, Tajikistan, Georgia, or Moldova, but not to the detriment of the effectiveness of the operations, of course.

The CSCE should now express its weighty opinion on the issue of strengthening the frontiers and the territorial integrity of its participant states. Attempts to revise the Helsinki basic principles could cost our continent dear.

Europe will become truly united once it has created a single common European economic space. We are proceeding in this direction. Membership of the European Union is expanding. Russia and the European Union recently took a major step toward one another when they concluded an agreement on partnership and cooperation. It is in our common interests to give it a truly effective nature.

The time has come to draw the countries of the Mediterranean into Europe-wide cooperation. Progress on a Near East settlement has offered new possibilities for this.

The reliability of the CSCE will depend upon the interaction of common interests among all European organizations and forums—the CIS, NATO, the Western European Union, the European Union, the Council of Europe, and others.

The CIS is playing an increasing role in the life of Europe. We do not intend to set up a new bloc within the framework of the Commonwealth which is opposed to anyone. As chairman of the Council of CIS Heads of State, I declare that the principles of the CSCE lie at the

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basis of the CIS Charter. All questions relating to the integration of the Commonwealth are resolved in strict accordance with these principles.

The Commonwealth will continue to grow stronger; such is the wish of our peoples. This is a major condition for stability, not only in eastern Europe, but also throughout the European continent.

Esteemed Mr. Chairman, esteemed leaders of the CSCE member states, 1995 is the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Now, after half a century, we are becoming increasingly aware of the true meaning of the great victory and the necessity for a historic reconciliation of Europe. No longer should there be enemies, victors, and vanquished. For the first time in the entire history of our continent, a real opportunity has emerged to achieve unity. To miss that opportunity would mean to forget the lessons of the past and put the very future into question.

I invite all heads of state to the grand festivities on 9 May 1995, marking the 50th anniversary of victory over fascism. The memory of the fallen and the life of the next generations place a very great responsibility upon us today. We will be up to our duty in this.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Yeltsin, Clinton To Hold Meeting Within CSCE Summit

LD0212174294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Mikhail Ponomarev] Grigoriy Karasin, official spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry, informed journalists today that the presidents of Russia and the United States have agreed to hold a bilateral meeting in Budapest within the framework of the summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Yeltsin on Changing Approach in Relations With U.S.

LD0412155994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1505 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 4 December—"Our position in respect of the CSCE is that the role and effectiveness of the work of this organization should be enhanced. It should be not a conference but an effective organization." That is what the Russian president Boris Yeltsin told journalists at the airport. [passage omitted]

The head of state was also asked about prospects of relations with the United States in light of the recent success of the Republican Party at the mid-term congressional elections. "It will be more difficult for us to do business with Americans," replied Boris Yeltsin, adding that the voting results had proved that "we should change the tactics of organizing our bilateral relations—We should give more attention to contacts with Republican representatives."

"We will invite more representatives of the Republican Party to Russia, will have more frequent meetings with them in the United States, and will use other opportunities for an exchange of opinions, for example, through the Foreign Ministry channels," the head of the Russian state said.

"Russia does not intend to become temperamental as a result of the Democrats failure to achieve success at the elections, to not do business with them as much as we used to," explained Boris Yeltsin. "On the contrary, as before, we will pursue a sensible and balanced policy."

In spite of the fact that the conversation with journalists covered international problems, the Chechen theme was not avoided. Boris Yeltsin was brief: "Chechnya is Russia's internal matter and we will resolve it depending on the development of the situation."

Kozyrev: CSCE Summit To Set Basis for New European Security

LD0412172594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1708 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 4 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said the summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) opening in Budapest on Monday should lay the foundation of a new security system for the Europe of the 21st century.

Kozyrev said Russia is seeking to achieve two major goals at the European security summit—to make the CSCE an effective international structure and begin a dialogue on a European security model for the next century.

Meeting journalists before flying to Budapest on Sunday, Kozyrev, who will accompany Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said that while preparing for the summit meeting Russia had been pursuing a "firm line for the expansion of the CSCE's powers" so that it could adopt specific decisions, including to protect ethnic minorities and conduct peace-keeping operations.

"What we have been struggling for all these three years may come true at last," he said.

Speaking about Russia's position on cooperation with NATO, Kozyrev said that "we are for partnership with the North Atlantic alliance, but while it is developing a new security model for Europe will be devised on the European level."

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"In two years it will become clear how our relations develop and how NATO and Russia change under their influence. In a word, we are against hasty decisions. We are for gradual, but definite establishment of a new security system in Europe. This system should unite, not divide," he said.

Kozyrev said that the development of economic relations with the European Union is one of the key elements of a new security system for Europe. "The economic aspect of security is very important and the agreement between the European Union and Russia signed in Corfu in June is an important step towards stability in Europe," the minister said.

"Next year Russia should, I hope it will, become a full member of the Council of Europe. This means democracy and the freedom of the press. In a word, it is the most important aspect of maintaining stability on the continent," Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev Meets U.S. Secretary of State in Brussels

LD0212143094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels December 2 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Brussels on Friday [2 December]. The two sides discussed the preparation for the forthcoming CSCE Summit meeting to be held in Budapest.

They also discussed the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the regime of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The two sides exchanged views on the control over armaments, the future of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its powers.

They also touched upon the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh, specifically the use of collective peacekeeping forces, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told journalists today.

Karasin noted that the talks between the two ministers were frank and concrete, and helped clarify positions at the final stage of the preparation for the summit in Budapest.

Speaking at a session of the Council of North Atlantic Cooperation at the foreign minister level which opened in Brussels on Friday, Kozyrev expressed satisfaction that the council had adopted a concrete programme for cooperation which blended with the context of the Budapest meeting of the CSCE.

The Russian foreign minister expressed the hope that the structures of the council would become a component of the all-European architecture of security.

Kozyrev proposed to establish a compact executive council under the Council of North Atlantic Cooperation to make this organisation more effective. The head of the Russian foreign office stressed the need for close cooperation between the Council of North Atlantic Cooperation and the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Meeting Devoted to Summit Details

LD0212153294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian and American Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton are expected to hold a bilateral meeting in the frameworks of the CSCE summit in Budapest. The meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher held on Friday [2 December] in Brussels was devoted to preparation for the presidents' meeting, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin reported to a group of journalists accompanying Kozyrev.

In Karasin's words, the meeting between Kozyrev and Christopher lasted for more than an hour, including the 45 minutes in which they talked in private.

Karasin pointed out that Kozyrev and Christopher also discussed issues related to the future of the CSCE and to collective peacemaking operations in the framework of this organization. "To this effect they spoke about the Nagorno-Karabakh problem," Karasin said.

Following his meeting with Warren Christopher, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev addressed a sitting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) held behind closed doors.

Karasin reported that the Russian minister proposed forming a NACC Executive Council "in order to boost the efficiency of this organization."

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Leaves Brussels

LD0312180894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1712 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brussels, 3 Dec—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left Brussels today after taking part in the 8th sitting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and in the foreign minister-level meeting of the Contact Group on former Yugoslavia. He also held a number of bilateral meetings, including one with NATO Secretary General Willy Claes, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Jose Pires Coutileiro, the new secretary general of the Western European Union. [passage omitted]

Returns to Moscow

LD0412062094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has returned to Moscow from Brussels

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where he took part in the 8th sitting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and in a foreign ministers meeting of the Contact Group on former Yugoslavia.

Kozyrev Criticizes 'Behind-the-Scenes' Deals on Bosnia

LD0412120694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Andrey Kozyrev is certain that a good collection of documents aimed at strengthening the unity of a Europe without dividing lines will be prepared for the summit-level forum in Budapest. The Russian foreign minister hopes that NATO, the West European Union, and the CIS will blend into this process, although this is no easy matter. Each organization has its caprices, and difficulties cannot be ruled out.

Andrey Kozyrev describes the decisions made by the Contact Group on Bosnia in the Belgian capital as good. The main points were achieved. The world powers recognized that the only correct decision can be achieved not on the battlefield but around the negotiating table. In Brussels it was possible to surpass the minimum program Moscow had set itself. The Contact Group said that the constitutional structure of Bosnia-Herzegovina should be acceptable to all the parties, and not only to the Muslims and Croats. That would remove the ground from under Bosnian Serb claims that their rights are being infringed. The Foreign Ministry chief said the Russian party has broken off relations with the Bosnian Serbs at the request of the Serb-Yugoslav leadership, in anticipation of a change in their position.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] And we hope that other members of the international community will continue to keep to the principled policy of not relying on behind-the-scenes deals with a party which rejects the peace plan. [end recording]

Kozyrev: Russia Opposes Third Country Interfering in Bosnia

LD0212212294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia is against interference of third countries into the Bosnian conflict, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

Commenting on the official statement of Zagreb that Croatia could interfere into the conflict if Bosnian Serbs seize the Moslem enclave of Bihac, he told Russian journalists in Brussels today that "threats are not the best way out."

Kozyrev repeated that the sanctions had been imposed on Belgrade right after its interference into the conflict in Bosnia. He said this was a warning for Croatia.

Kozyrev said he believed that ceasefire must be fixed in Bosnia. "It is important to prevent new crises. Otherwise, we will be moving from one Bihac to another," he added.

Kozyrev told an Interfax correspondent that the approaches of Russia and the U.S. to settlement in Bosnia were different. He said Russia was in favor of lifting the sanctions against the United Republic of Yugoslavia backing the plan of the contact group on settlement in Bosnia. "We also believe that Bosnian Serbs must receive the right to establish confederative relations with the United Republic of Yugoslavia as Bosnian Moslems and Croats received the right to create a confederation," he said.

Kozyrev said the meeting of the contact group for settlement of the conflict in Bosnia in Brussels this evening could face difficulties and discord. He added, however, that even if the contact group did not accept the Russian proposals but "will bring the situation back to the channel of political decisions this will already be a large contribution to settlement of the Bosnian crisis." "This is a kind of a program-minimum coordinated by the contact group in Geneva and, in particular, providing for ceasefire," he said when commenting on the program which the contact group will discuss in Brussels.

Kozyrev said the "launch" of the Russia-NATO program expected to take place in Brussels on December 1 had not been cancelled but had been delayed after the North Atlantic Cooperation Council deciding to enlarge NATO. "Russia is in favor of partnership with NATO but equal partnership without surprises," he said.

He said Russia would need time to assess the new situation and the decision of NATO which was ambiguous. "As far as emotions of the NATO member-states reacting to Russia's decision to delay the launch of the program are concerned I could also react emotionally but I will not do this," Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev: Moscow Postponing NATO Partnership Plans

LD0212132594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1141 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told INTERFAX Thursday [1 December] night that Moscow was postponing, and not canceling, plans for partnership with the North Atlantic Alliance. Instead of making rash moves, it will wait till it reads and studies the decision on the expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance.

Kozyrev sees the decision as "ambiguous." It is a blend of "correct" plans for more cooperation with Russia and alarming plans to hurry up with the expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance and forget for a while the Partnership for Peace program, Kozyrev said.

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Nonetheless, there is no need for dramatizing the issue. If NATO explains that the Partnership for Peace program remains effective and Moscow misunderstood its decision, the problem will be as good as settled, he said.

In Kozyrev's view, the sky may clear up as early as Friday, after the North Atlantic Cooperation Council meets in Brussels.

After Thursday's meeting with the foreign ministers of the NATO member-nations, Kozyrev said that Russia could some day join the North Atlantic Alliance. "But you can't do everything helter skelter," he said. "We'll change and so will the Alliance. Then we'll see whether we want to join NATO."

Kozyrev: Russia Wants NATO Explanation Before Partnership

LD0412174294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1639 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Dec—"The decision to delay the adoption of the Russia-NATO partnership program will have no effect on the program for the participation of the Russian delegation in the CSCE summit in Budapest, and the tone of President Boris Yeltsin's address to the plenary session of the summit tomorrow will be placid, as originally planned."

This statement was made to ITAR-TASS today by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. He is accompanying the Russian head of state to the Hungarian capital, where the third summit meeting of the leaders of CSCE member states opens tomorrow.

"Russia's stand is quite clear: Not we, but NATO, adopted a communique representing a compromise between two approaches to the future of the organization," Andrey Kozyrev said. "We have but one approach: We want honest, equal, and clear partnership with the North Atlantic union."

"The cooperation program we had prepared and were going to put into effect reflected this approach. Judging from the contents of the final communique of the NATO session in Brussels, our Western colleagues had some new ideas. Even though hot on the heels of the session in Brussels I received assurances that there had been no change with regard to Russia; i.e., that the course toward partnership was being retained, we decided to refrain for the moment from adopting the prepared program."

"If a more detailed study of the the new situation confirms that NATO is not altering its approach to partnership with Russia as an important stage in itself, which can be followed by all kinds of options, such as increasing the number of members of the alliance or setting up new European architecture, then we shall consider the incident closed," the minister said.

Andrey Kozyrev emphasized that not Russia but NATO was "the source of misunderstanding and vagueness." "We are prepared to return to a discussion on broad partnership if our Western colleague still show their interest in it," he added. "If not, we shall thoroughly analyze the new approaches and see whether they suit us; our response to the new situation will depend on our conclusions."

"At present, we are waiting for a more detailed explanation of what NATO has in mind, but for the time being we are not going to change our approach in any way," the minister said.

Kozyrev Says More Time Needed To Study NATO Documents

LD0212172494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1517 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels, 2 Dec—Russia views its future relations with NATO as partnerlike, on a basis of equality and without surprises, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Russian journalists in a break during the meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council being held at NATO headquarters in Brussels. Russia does not reject the jointly prepared "Russia-NATO" program and remains in a position of partnership with the alliance but it must be convinced that NATO is not putting forward new game rules.

According to Andrey Kozyrev, Russian President Boris Yeltsin took a decision not to hasten, as diplomats say, the launch of that program after a telephone conversation with him. The reason for this is that the NATO Council at the foreign ministerial level adopted a closing communique on 1 December and, in the opinion of the Russian party, this contained new elements.

The Russian delegation arrived in Brussels thinking that the NATO Council session would not introduce anything new compared with the position which was agreed during contacts with Russia. But it received a substantial eight-page document in densely printed English with clear indications of a complex compromise between NATO members. Time will be needed in order to study it carefully, because on first reading it has raised several questions over NATO's intentions.

Russia proceeds from the view that the "Partnership for Peace" is a major stage of cooperation, which has independent value. Only then is there sense in such a detailed program, which has been prepared and is intended for adoption.

But the text of the NATO communique contains another, parallel concept (which also testifies to its compromise nature). Partnership is given the role of a transient stage of preparation for the entry of several countries into NATO, a sort of accelerated preparatory class. The minister recalled that Russia is not ruling out

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the possibility of entering the alliance itself, but only after the partnership stage has been passed.

Our partners in talks must get used to the fact that Russia, as they themselves agree in this same communique, is a serious and major partner, a great power, as indeed NATO is a serious organization with great powers as members, Andrey Kozyrev said. Therefore the other side's initiatives cannot be accepted, as it were, "by ear."

According to the minister, another stage of serious dialogue with NATO will be needed in order to understand one another's intentions precisely, and this must be done calmly.

Andrey Kozyrev regards the reactions of his NATO colleagues to his statement as "calm on the whole", although "there were still a number of emotional comments made in public."

Deputy Defense Minister Advocates Partnership With NATO

LD0212154694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] First Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev believes that partnership between Russia and NATO would benefit both sides.

Kondratyev, a member of the Russian delegation at the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, told Interfax that Russia could not live in isolation and that the cold war was over.

Commenting on the failure of the Russia-NATO program tied to the NATO Council decision to expand the alliance eastwards, Kondratyev said that Russia and its armed forces would only gain by using whatever is worthwhile in NATO.

He said that the Russian armed forces were prepared to show some of its developments to NATO, while keeping certain things secret.

Kondratyev believed that partnership between Russia and NATO would improve international stability.

Rybkin Demands 'Respect' for Russia in NATO Expansion

LD0412101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0006 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Zhirnikhin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Budapest, 4 Dec—The Western partners should respect Russia's position when they decide any possible expansion of NATO by accepting into the military bloc the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which were previously in the Warsaw Pact Organization. This opinion was expressed in an interview for ITAR-TASS by Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin. The speaker of the lower chamber of the Russian parliament, who has arrived in Budapest to take part in the work of the bureau of the CSCE parliamentary assembly, was commenting on the fears of a number of well-known Western politicians who believe that the Budapest meeting will see a sharp discussion between Russia and NATO on the problem of extending the alliance to the east.

"For many years we dreamed together that the time would come when the Iron Curtain would fall, and that instead of NATO and the Warsaw Pact other military-political organizations would appear under the aegis of the CSCE in which Russia would be an equal among equals. Now someone is hurriedly trying to profess a somewhat different version of the development of events. For example, some are trying to vigorously compile a timetable for the acceptance into NATO of new members from the former socialist countries who were part of the Warsaw Pact. How can Russia stand aside in this situation? Of course, we do not wish to ban anyone or decide who should be a member of any organization. On the other hand, we must respect each other's positions," I. Rybkin said.

"Russia has to be concerned about its own security. It has to solve this problem in difficult conditions. The world community could help the Russian Federation if it so desired. But if, as they say, 'they cannot help with the dollar or the ruble, then they should at least give moral help.' It would be possible, for example, to devise somewhat different programs of interaction between the Russian Federation and NATO which would meet Russia's aspirations. 'Quick-fix' cooperation programs presuppose such financial wastage in the near future which would simply be a burden on Russia and destroy its economy. Our country is here and now going through what is far from the best of times. It is doggedly seeking a way out of the quagmire of a crisis, and therefore we would very much like to be properly understood," I. Rybkin stressed.

Regarding the State Duma's attitude to the possibility of forming and using, under the aegis of the CSCE, international peacekeeping forces in conflict zones on CIS territory, he noted that after the collapse of the USSR a group of Russian politicians went to the United Nations and other international organizations and asked that the Russian military contingents on CIS territory be given peacekeeper status. Now, Russian guys in military uniform are being simply forced to fulfill the role of peacekeepers in conflict zones. That's how it was in the Dniester region, in Tajikistan, and in a number of other places. However, among some foreign politicians one can at times sense a desire to try to liquidate seats of conflict on CIS territory without Russia's participation. Precisely nothing will come of this. All serious politicians realize this, I. Rybkin said.

Yeltsin, Hungarian Leaders Discuss NATO Expansion

LD0412190994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1728 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Budapest, 4 Dec—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Horn met at the Hungarian parliament. Also, the Russian leader met Hungarian President Arpad Goncz.

As ITAR-TASS has learned, the meeting concentrated on issues of developing bilateral relations and on problems of NATO's possible expansion by including a number of states of central and eastern Europe. [passage omitted]

Official: Moscow Will View NATO Expansion as 'Anti-Russian'

LD0212203394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—Russia may refuse from programs of cooperation with NATO if the alliance decides to expand onto Eastern Europe, believes member of the Russian Presidential Council Sergey Karaganov. In his opinion, Moscow will estimate this move as "anti-Russian and hostile."

Commenting on the final communique of the NATO council session, the expert said that the alliance is trying to boost the admission of new members to the organization and do not give Russia enough time for response. "In fact, there are no obligations in the document and I am not sure this decision will be adopted if only for it requires consensus and a complicated ratification procedure," said Karaganov.

He described the Russian official reaction to the NATO stand as "adequate but somewhat late." In his opinion, the question that Russia should be the first candidate to NATO membership in case of expansion of the organization should have been raised before. "There would have been no such a question if we did it timely," said Karaganov.

The expert reminded that NATO was created with a clear purpose, and post-confrontation Europe does not need such an organization as NATO in its initial form. "It is an anti-Russian union anyway. Otherwise it merely cannot exist. The alliance has no new image, it is just a make-up," said Karaganov.

In his opinion, there are several tendencies in NATO. One of them, "purely bureaucratic" links the alliance expansion procedures with prolongation of its existence. The other is trying to provoke confrontation and "bar Russia from the outer world."

As for the strivings of East European nations, all of them are trying to become part of Western Europe. "But they are given a ticket to 'the gods' and this ticket cannot be used to enter the pit. They are offered to join NATO while they were asking for admission to the European Union," added the scientist.

"If NATO is expanded, I think we will reject a program of cooperation with the alliance," said Karaganov. Russian diplomats just cannot do the other way bearing in mind feelings in the state. It is important that everyone understands: Moscow reaction would be "maximum tough," stressed the Presidential Council member.

Marshal Shaposhnikov Calls For Dissolution of NATO

AU0212122194 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 2 Dec 94 p 25

[Article by Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, former defense minister of the USSR: "NATO Must Be Eliminated!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Not too long ago, Russia's relations with the Western world were characterized by the rivalry between systems, blocks, states, and peoples. This produced the Cold War, the arms race, mutual distrust, and hostility.

Today, we have reason to assume that our relations are acquiring a new quality. The process is complicated and complex. Many Russians regard the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, German unification, and the withdrawal of the Russian Forces from the countries of Eastern Europe as one-sided concessions to the West.

Breaking with the extremisms of both sides will inevitably lead to the question: If there is no more confrontation, why has NATO not been dissolved?

Yet, NATO is doing the exact opposite: It wants to get bigger and become the military arm of the United Nations.

By having been invited to participate in the "Partnership for Peace" program, Russia has been faced with a difficult decision. If it signs the "Partnership" without any reservations, NATO would extend its sphere of influence to the Pacific, to China's border. This could not only destroy the "balance of power" in Asia, but even lead to a new edition of the confrontation with our big neighbor in the east. Not joining the "Partnership" might drive Russia into Western isolation, with the NATO block moving right up to our country's borders. The confidence that has built up through detente, would be in danger.

The idea of conceding Russia a special role in the "Partnership" is not the best idea, either. Other partner countries would interpret it negatively. It would be hypocrisy and a concealed claim to hegemony if Russia negotiated such a role with the leading NATO countries.

Today, we need a concept that, on the one hand, frees the government in Moscow from such a decision, while, on the other, presents formulas that reflect Russia's influence and can be accepted by other countries.

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Today, the international community does not need any military blocks, but civilized mechanisms to settle relations. Such mechanisms are the United Nations, the CSCE, the CIS, and others. Under the new conditions, all these organizations are not efficient enough to guarantee the world harmony and security. They must be reformed. My concept provides for one worldwide organization (United Nations), and subordinate regional structures. The worldwide organization would deal with general issues and issues of outstanding importance, the regional sub-organizations with special issues—economic, ecological, and social matters. The two levels would be complementary.

Since the world is far from being perfect and security on earth is not yet guaranteed, the regional structures must also include military bodies and peace-keeping forces that can be used on the basis of UN resolutions—in the early stage of possible conflicts, for disasters, to help the population, and for humanitarian operations.

In line with its role and situation, each country should belong to one or several regional organizations. Thus, Russia could be a member of the CSCE, the CIS, and the organization of Asian and Pacific states. The CIS would acquire more concrete and explicit contours, formally and in substance, which would be conducive to the cause, to stability, and the integration of peoples living on one- sixth of this world's territory.

NATO today is not ready to dissolve itself for many reasons. I think the main reason is the lack of trust by its leaders in the irreversibility of the process of democratization in Russia. Yet, if NATO has so little confidence in Russian democracy, why should Russia be convinced that the "Partnership" will only be to its advantage? Russia has done much more than all NATO members together. I used the room and the possibilities to increase confidence. Now it is about to give up its interests, its authority, and dignity.

The situation is serious. We must do something now under all circumstances to prevent a future clash between the peoples.

Chechen Terrorists Threaten Russians in Denmark

LD0212132794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1318 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Taras Lariokhin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen December 2 TASS—A message containing threats to all members of Russian organisations in Denmark, signed by the so-called "North Caucasian Liberation Army," came to the office of the RIA news agency in Copenhagen on Friday [2 December].

Anonymous terrorists demand that Russia immediately recognize Chechen independence and pull out all its troops from the region. Otherwise, Russian citizens in Denmark will be declared "military targets," the message said.

Deputy chief of the Copenhagen police, Arne Bremholdt, said that an investigation into the incident had begun. It is noteworthy that a fax containing a warning was sent from a city railway station. This is the first time when Russians working in Denmark were threatened with a terrorist act.

Ukraine's Masol, Chernomyrdin Sign Protocol on Negotiations

AU0212185194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Main Issues Are the Fleet, Debts, and an Agreement on Friendship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the course of a working session held in Moscow by the heads of government of Russia and Ukraine, V. Chernomyrdin and V. Masol signed a protocol on resuming negotiations between the two countries. The prime ministers agreed to authorize corresponding ministries and departments to complete negotiations on the first stage of settling the Black Sea Fleet problems, dividing the debts and assets of the former USSR, and drafting an agreement on restructuring Ukraine's indebtedness to Russia for 1992-93. It was also decided to settle the question of repayment of the current debt for mutual deliveries of energy sources and other goods, or to sign a contract on future gas deliveries from Russia to Ukraine.

Decisions on these issues must be prepared by 20 December. It is planned to complete, by 13 December, negotiations on drafting an agreement on friendship and cooperation between Russia and Ukraine.

Prime Minister, Czech Finance Minister Discuss Ties

LD0312163894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 3 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin received visiting Czech Vice-Premier and Minister of Finance Ivan Kocarnik here today to discuss bilateral relations.

Kocarnik is currently in Moscow to attend a meeting of the bilateral intergovernmental commission for trade and economic cooperation. The conversation also involved Russian Vice-Premier Yuriy Yarov, who heads the bilateral commission for Russia.

In the opinion of Kocarnik, the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic have developed mutual understanding. Permanent working contacts between Russia

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and the Czech Republic have resulted in stable improvement of bilateral economic relations, Yarov told ITAR-TASS today.

Russian oil and gas are being stably supplied to the Czech Republic, and the sides have reached an agreement on restructuring the Russian debt to Prague totalling about 3.5 billion U.S. dollars. The sides are finalizing bilateral projects to assembly the Czech Skoda car at Russian plants and cooperate in the oil and gas sphere, nuclear power engineering and standardization. Next year will witness a bilateral agreement against double taxation, and the sides are considering a proposal on re-investment of the Russian debt to the Czech Republic.

Today's meeting did not discuss a Czech visit of Viktor Chernomyrdin that was planned long ago, but the sides hope the visit will be held next year, Kocarnik told correspondents.

Three Agreements Approved

LD0312214794 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1700 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik telephones in exclusively for Czech Radio from Moscow, where he is heading the Czech delegation at the meeting of the intergovernmental commission for trade and economic cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic.

[Kocarnik] There was a plenary session of the Czech-Russian intergovernmental commission this morning. Three agreements were approved at this session. These agreements will be signed tomorrow at 1000.

The first agreement is on the protocol for oil deliveries for 1995 and following years. Deliveries for 1995 have been fixed at the volume of 7 million tonnes.

Next comes, at first sight, not very conspicuous but in fact very important, the so-called agreement on certifications. This agreement means that certificates granted by the two countries will be mutually acknowledged. This means that it will not be necessary for our exporters to have certificates issued abroad in Western countries but in our country. Czech certificates will be acknowledged in Russia. Naturally, this will also hold the other way round.

The third agreement approved today is an agreement on cooperation in the nuclear power sector. [passage omitted]

As for the problems on the Russian side, it has been indicated that they would like to speed up the agreement on the prevention of double taxation.

I was received by Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin at noon. I consider two messages from this meeting to be important.

First, it has been stated that after Prime Minister Klaus' visit to this country, matters linked to mutual problems and relations between Russia and the Czech Republic started moving and they are following now a positive trend.

The other message worth noticing is that Prime Minister Chernomyrdin expressed a view that problems must not be allowed to grow and they should be dealt with immediately as they emerge, even directly over the phone.

That is all for today and I am sure we will have more news tomorrow.

U.S. Intelligence Failed To Predict Russian Missile Forces

LD0312123894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1145 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Pakhomov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York December 3 TASS—The U.S. intelligence service knew about the Soviet programme for building strategic missile forces but could not predict the scale of their deployment.

Moreover, documents of the Central Intelligence Agency made public on Friday [2 December] show that the American intelligence community, despite its far-flung spy network, could not give a clear-cut reply on the threshold of the 1950's and 1960's to the following question: How did Moscow intend to end the U.S. nuclear monopoly?

Declassified CIA documents—some 2,000 pages in all—were made public at a conference, now in progress at Harvard University.

It was pointed out that CIA officers correctly predicted, as a whole, late in the 1950's that the Soviet leaders were seeking to turn Intercontimental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) into the key element of their nuclear arsenal.

But when the Soviet Union started deploying strategic missile forces early in the 1960's, Americans started making inaccurate forecasts, disbelieving that the Soviet missile arsenal will top their own in the next few years.

Defense Ministry Calls For Changes to CFE Treaty

LD0512134494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1221 GMT 5 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 5 Dec—The Russian Defense Ministry is seeking the revision of a number of articles of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), signed five years ago. The Russian military has sent proposals which concern, primarily, the temporary suspension of the article in the treaty on flank restrictions to the joint consultation group in Vienna for

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the treaty signatories to examine. Colonel General Vladimir Zhurbenko, first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, announced this today at a news conference at the Defense Ministry.

In his assessment, Russia is fulfilling its obligations faithfully. Today, as stipulated by the schedule, tanks and strike helicopters have been reduced by 61 percent of the declared number, armored combat vehicles by 79 percent, artillery systems by 60 percent, and warplanes by 71 percent in the area to which the treaty applies.

The CFE treaty was drawn up and signed at a time of confrontation between two military-political blocs. After the collapse of the USSR there was considerable change in the proportionate levels of stationing of conventional weapons, Vladimir Zhurbenko noted. As a result of this Russia has had to station the main bulk of its conventional weapons outside the locations where the situation required them.

According to the general, this means first and foremost the Caucasus region, where there are several areas of armed conflict close to the Russian borders and on Russian territory itself. "We cannot allow these conflicts to spread to other parts of Russia," Vladimir Zhurbenko emphasized.

According to him, the stipulations of the treaty on flank limitations discriminates against Russia. It deprives Russia of the right to station conventional weapons on its own territory as it judges fit, even where the situation and the interests of guaranteeing national security demand it.

It is the view of Vladimir Zhurbenko that Western partners, particularly Norway and Turkey, "are trying to hold Russia within the framework of the treaty restrictions and trying not to allow Russia to satisfy our need for weapons and equipment for regular units on our flanks to the full."

"We are taking as our basis the need to create a group of Russian troops which would be designated exclusively for guaranteeing the country's security and integrity, first and foremost on the southern flank, in the North Caucasus," Vladimir Zhurbenko stressed. One year remains until full implementation of the treaty. The general expressed the hope that Russia will succeed in convincing its Western partners of the advisability of amendments to the treaty.

Defense Official on Peacekeeping Efforts in Abkhazia

LD0212133194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's First Deputy Defense Minister Georgy Kondratiyev feels that the new tensions around the Abkhazian developments must not hinder further peacekeeping efforts in the troubled area. According to General Kondratiyev, both Tbilisi and Moscow took the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict as "a bleeding wound."

It is no secret that although the peacekeeping operation launched in the spring of 1993 is described as Commonwealth, Russia and none other but Russia is in fact carrying it out, Kondratiyev told in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX. Whatever the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other organizations can choose to say on the matter in question, Russia is the best peacekeeper on the former Soviet territory, Kondratiyev said.

In Kondratiyev's view, the Russian peacekeepers in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict have met their objective. An end has been put to the fighting and there is to be no more fighting there, Kondratiyev said.

Addressing Abkhazia's recent decision to proclaim sovereignty, Kondratiyev said that euphoria about their victory brought the Abkhazian leaders, including Vladislav Ardzinba (President - IF note), to make many erroneous moves. Such a small country as Abkhazia cannot be self-sufficient. Abkhazia can survive either as part of Georgia, and this is what the Rusian leaders repeatedly tried to impress on it, or, eventually, as part of some other country. Abkhazia is neither economically nor politically fit to survive on its own, Kondratiyev told INTERFAX.

Kondratiyev rejected, most emphatically, reports on the transformation of the Russian peacekeepers into Abkhazian border guards on the Inguri river.

December 12 marks the end of Russia's six-month mandate for peacekeeping action in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. Kondratiyev said that Thursday Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reminded that to President Yeltsin. If Yeltsin tells it to go ahead, the Defense Ministry will request the Federal Assembly to consider, before December 10, the extension of the peacekeeping mandate. And, with agreement from the Federal Assembly, the Russian peacekeepers will remain in Abkhazia, Kondratiyev said.

General Says Russia Meets Weapons Treaty Pledges

LD0512143694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A top Russian military officer said Russia is fully meeting its commitments to cut down its conventional weapons.

By November 17, the country had put out of service 1,953 tanks, (61 percent of what it is to dispose of under the treaty on conventional armaments in Europe), 4,328 armored vehicles (79 percent), 397 artillery systems (60 percent), 726 aircraft (71 percent), and 60 helicopters (61 percent), Colonel-General Vladimir Zhurbenko, first

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deputy chief of the armed forces general staff, told a news conference in Moscow on Monday.

In addition, Russia's coast defense and marine forces have got rid of 199 tanks, 293 armored vehicles and 262 artillery systems over and above the quotas indicated in the treaty. The armaments of the forces stationed in Asian Russia have been reduced by 331 tanks, 488 armored vehicles and 436 artillery systems, the general said.

PRC Official on Nuclear Energy Joint Venture in Shenzhen

OW0512103994 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 3 Dec 94

[Station reporter Mashenko's talk with Mr. Kong Fandai, president of the China-Russian Nuclear Energy Corporation; from the "Commercial Club" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] For those who did not listen to our previous "Commercial Club" program, we would like to give you a brief account of the corporation's background.

The China-Russian Nuclear Energy Corporation was founded in last April with a registered capital of $10 million shared equally by the Russian and Chinese sides. The corporation's founders are the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy and the Chinese Ministry of Nuclear Energy [name of organ as heard]. Located in Shenzhen, the corporation's main mission is to promote Russia's latest technologies and (?high-technology) products in China's markets. Mr. Kong Fandai maintained that if a similar joint venture is established in Russia, it certainly will hasten the attainment of its goals. Mr. Kong Fandai's talk follows:

[Begin Kong recording] We hope to establish a corporation, called RCN, in Russia as quickly as possible [word indistinct]. The corporation is called CRN in China. The corporation is to channel foreign capital into Russia. Russia is now in short supply of certain electrical products, such as household appliances, and products of which Russia now produces relatively little. Foreign capital has also been used in producing electrical household appliances in China. I am quite interested in some countries' corporations and [word indistinct]. So we will go to Russia together. [end recording]

This reporter asked Mr. Kong Fandai a new question: In what way will cooperation with Russia in the field of nuclear energy benefit China?

[Begin Kong recording] I feel our cooperation with the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy has the following features: First, the level of cooperation is quite high. This is a cooperation project between two countries and two departments of high-technology industries. So there is a high degree of trustworthiness. No one side will cheat the other. We have absolute trust in the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy. Russia also has high faith in us. So credibility is not a problem. Another feature is the relatively high technological level of our cooperation. The two countries' participants are both departments of high-technology industries. Both sides will bring into China the technologies of relatively well-known research institutes. The research institutes in Leningrad and Moscow are top-rated institutes. China's institutes to cooperate with them are also top-rated institutes. So the technological level of cooperation will be high. These are two special features. This is why the leaders of Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy, the China National Nuclear Corporation, and Shenzhen are attaching great importance to this project. Shenzhen's mayor and vice mayors have made a special trip to Russia and have had discussions with Chinese authorities concerned on this project. They are attaching great importance to this matter. The Russian (?side is planning to) build a high-technology industrial park in Shenzhen. The park's location is also very good. I hope it will produce and market the two countries' high-technology goods there. This is our main task. The corporation's chairman is from Russia, and the vice chairman and president are from China. The executive vice president is also from Russia. [end recording]

Toward the end of the talk with Mr. Kong Fandai, our station reporter could not help asking him another question: Does he know the problems which a foreign investor may encounter in Russia?

[Begin Kong recording] I should say that there are very few problems. Our mutual cooperation has been quite successful. There is the language problem and some differences in each other country's laws. There are also some minor problems concerning the compatibility of our laws and the international norms. These problems are surmountable. They are not big problems. Generally speaking, our cooperation is proceeding according to schedule. I should say there will not be any big problems. [end Kong recording]

Plan Called 'Very Attractive'

OW0512100594 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 26 Nov 94

[Report by station correspondent Baoktiktov in Beijing; from the "Current Events and Commentaries" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia is striving to become part of China's peaceful nuclear power program. This is a statement made by Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Mikhaylov at a press conference after visiting China.

This minister stressed that China's market was very important to Russia. We should know that China's big plan for building nuclear power stations has always been very attractive, especially when we consider the fact that China is [words indistinct] unable to accomplish the plan by relying on its own efforts. However, Russia is not the only country ready to develop nuclear technology with China [words indistinct]. The United States, France, and Canada are also our strong competitors.

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Russia has already missed the opportunity of taking part in building China's first two nuclear power stations; however, according to Mikhaylov, Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy has a very good reputation for building nuclear power stations, and so it is making efforts toward establishing cooperation programs with China in this regard. This is not an over-optimistic assessment. Certain concrete results have been achieved. For example, an agreement has already been reached in [words indistinct] for China to accelerate the examination of the technical data concerning the nuclear power station planned to be built with Russian assistance. A verbal agreement was reached in this regard when President Yeltsin visited China two years ago.

The second Russian-Chinese joint venture will be built in Hainan. This venture will [words indistinct] the first Russia-Chinese joint venture in China has been established in the Shenzhen Special Zone. Russian [words indistinct] nuclear power station built by (?French) in Shenzhen [words indistinct] power for Russia to compete in China's market. Within a five-year period, we will provide 30 percent of the materials needed for building the nuclear power station [words indistinct].

The leader of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry stated that [words instinct] Chinese people should know that the level of Russian designs is quite high. Mikhaylov pointed out that Russian strength is five to 10 years ahead of the West in many technological areas. Moreover, our price is low. As for safety, the record of safety of nuclear power stations in Russia is among the best in the world. Mikhaylov said: Over 1,000 experts of the International Agency of Nuclear Energy and other countries have visited Russia's [words indistinct].

Mikhaylov also refuted press reports that claim that [words indistinct] Russian nuclear experts are working illegally in foreign countries, including China.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Leaves For Budapest, on CSCE Role

LD0412160694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Dec 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin, as well as the heads of many CIS and Baltic states, left today for Budapest where the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe opens on Friday. Boris Yeltsin gave an interview to correspondents before his departure.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Our position with respect to the CSCE is that its role should increase, and the effectiveness of its work should also be enhanced. It should not be a conference as the CSCE is called, but an organization. That is our opinion, and I will speak accordingly from such positions. We are especially opposed to a global, simultaneous, and very excessive expansion of NATO at the expense of many states. We believe that in that case it will mean that NATO will reach the borders of the Russian Federation and we will again have two blocs. Of course, this is impermissible and this will not help the question of security. [end recording]

'President's Party' Looks To Unity, 1996 Victory

MM0512103794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Nov 94 p2

[Commentary by Igor Kharichev: "The Democrats Could Be United By a New Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A bitter struggle for seats in the State Duma will develop in September next year and, after that, for the 1996-style presidential seat. The results that these and other elections will bring for the supporters of market reforms are a source of serious concern in the democratic camp. The divisions among democratic political organizations—or, to be more precise, political organizations which favor a market economy—are intensifying.

Meanwhile, despite its lack of coordination, the opposition has agreed on a presidential candidate: Petr Romanov, deputy of the Federation Council and general director of the "Yenisey" Chemical Combine of the "Krasnoyarskiy" Production Association. He is a very strong contender. Clearly, the democrats must also unite. It would seem to be obvious. However, few seriously believe that the leaders of the biggest parties and blocs—Ye. Gaydar, G. Yavlinskiy, S. Shakhray, B. Fedorov, G. Popov, L. Ponomarev, and K. Borovoy—will be able to reach an agreement on cooperation, let alone unification.

In these conditions the democrats will inevitably lose the presidential elections. There will be no strong support for the future president in the State Duma. And the positions of those who support radical reforms in the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly will be seriously undermined.

One solution, however paradoxical it may seem, would be to create a new political organization. How can you form another party or movement when there are already so many? You could, of course, try to write a fundamentally new, unprecedented program. But even if you managed to do that, the task would not be solved, because people do not read programs, and, even if they did, they would not be able to assess which was best. As there is not a very high level of political sophistication in our country, parties with a leader, rather than ideas, dominate and are accepted by the public consciousness. Take a fairly well-known leader with even a modicum of support among the population, and you get Gaydar's party, Shakhray's party, and so forth. There is no point forming another such party (movement, bloc, or fund). Only a truly mass organization is worth discussing.

There is no one leader in Russia who is recognized and supported by all democrats. But Russian President B. Yeltsin still enjoys the greatest support. He has the greatest chance of winning the presidential elections on behalf of the democrats. However, the number of those who support B. Yeltsin is waning. At the same time, he still has enough supporters to form a truly mass organization. It is pointless arguing that the best time to do this has passed. But the saying—better late than never—was not invented for no reason.

Attempts to form a presidential party have already been made. Not very successful attempts. Perhaps because the president himself did not clearly indicate his strong ties with the political structure created in spring this year. There were also other reasons.

What would be the most advisable course of action this time when creating a new organization? Simply urge the president's supporters to join? Attempts to form a mass party are unlikely to succeed unless B. Yeltsin calls for this himself or clearly indicates his unequivocal support for the undertaking. It is important to ensure that the people responsible for organizing the party are sufficiently well known throughout Russia, but do not belong to any existing party and do not have a negative rating. A difficult, but not insoluble task.

What direction should be taken by the new party, which could conditionally be called the "President's Party"? As the banner of social democracy has been seized by left-wing forces, which recently set up the Russian Social Democratic Union, it makes sense to talk about a social-liberal direction. Especially as this direction lies midway between social democracy and "pure" liberalism. All the main parties in Western countries uphold social-liberal views to a degree. On the other hand, these reference points mean little to the broad public. In any case, the "President's Party" will have to explain the ideals it intends to uphold in language comprehensible to ordinary people.

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The key feature is who joins the "President's Party." If it merely brings together people prepared to support B. Yeltsin in any situation, that will not be enough. Likewise, if the people who join are those who gaze upon Yeltsin with reverence, that also will not be enough! While supporting Yeltsin, this organization must be aware of the present errors and miscalculations and essentially draw up a new program to elect Boris Yeltsin for a second term. For example, crime is assuming ever more threatening proportions. Consequently, the new party must not confine itself to general wishes yet again, but draw up a package of specific measures, including reform of law enforcement bodies, reform of the judicial system, which has become bogged down, and effective measures to fight corruption. There is still no real support for small and medium businesses, which form the basis of a market economy, so it is time to draw up a package of concrete measures. And so on for all key problems: Not avoiding them, not glossing over them, but indicating ways to tackle them. Only then can the new organization count on citizens' broad support. Only then can it be a worthy partner of B. Yeltsin.

The new party should form a shadow cabinet of ministers from the very outset, which must start work by drawing up a program of reforms and indicating ways to implement the program. In addition, it should immediately begin to prepare a team of future candidate deputies for the State Duma.

We hardly need to prove that the "President's Party" can only become a mass organization if it is really democratic, in other words, if minority opinion is considered and respected from the outset and if a spirit of goodwill and cooperation is established.

In the process of building the party, maximum effort must be made to get away from the almost compulsory involvement in such a party by local leaders (and they will be tempted), as this could alienate ordinary voters. Any signs of excessive organization should be avoided at all costs. New politicians must be attracted on a broad scale, particularly in Russia's regions.

The formation of the "President's Party" could help to solve a more general task: That of uniting some democratic forces. The new party could serve as the basis of a broad election alliance or bloc and gather around it existing democratic parties and movements prepared to support B. Yeltsin's nomination in the forthcoming 1996 presidential elections.

Duma Deputy Yavlinskiy Hopes for Presidency

MK0212130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tyumen—State Duma Deputy Grigoriy Yavlinskiy hopes to win the presidential elections. He repeatedly stated this during his tour of the oblast while meeting with members of the public and appearing on local television. Mr. Yavlinskiy believes elections for president and a new Duma will be held in 1995.

Republicans Close Conference, Criticize Yeltsin

LD0412162794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The closing session of the Republican Party of Russia's conference was held in Moscow today. Naturally, attention was focussed on the report by Party Chairman Vladimir Lysenko, back from Groznyy with the State Duma delegation.

[[Begin Lysenko recording] It is perfectly clear that Russia could get dragged into one of the most tragic wars in its recent history. Furthermore, if there are going to be funerals of our Russian soldiers every day, then I assure you that President Yeltsin's authority, what remains of his authority, will simply disappear in such a situation. It is quite natural that an investigation is needed—parliament will begin one itself whether or not the president does so—in order to establish how the article of the Constitution forbidding the use of the Russian armed forces inside the country, except during an emergency or under martial law, was violated. I believe that that very important article was violated here. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The Republican Party will express its position on the events in Chechnya in a separate resolution. As for the party's problems in general, its chairman thinks the main aim now is to prepare for the next elections. In Vladimir Lysenko's opinion, the party needs to attend to the situation in the regions and develop its work in various public women's and veterans' organizations. And if the party was once the basis of the Yavlinskiy bloc before part of it went over to Russia's [Democratic] Choice, then the main strategy of the Republican Party now is to speak on its own behalf and be independent.

Social, National Parties Merge

LD0312144294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1423 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Cherepanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] St. Petersburg December 3 TASS—The People's Social and National Republican parties merged into a single party at a joint congress here on Saturday. The new party preserved the name of National Republican Party of Russia. It is headed by Yuriy Belyaev, the former leader of the People's Social Party.

According to Belyaev, the merger is a very timely move, since "the matter in question now is to preserve national independence and sovereignty of Russians in Russia".

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He expressed confidence that the merger is only the start of the process. Belyaev said that 30 political parties and organisations of this kind plan to participate in a congress of nationalist forces, scheduled for this Sunday.

The congress passed a no-confidence vote in Nikolay Lysenko who headed the National Republican Party before the merger. He is accused of using 40 million roubles of party funds to conduct a personal election campaign. The decision on his dismissal was taken in his absence.

Report Notes Seizure of Most-Bank Office

LD0212171694 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondents have just returned from the city council building where unexpected events have taken place today. Today, armed people in camouflage surrounded the building in Novyy Arbat, formerly the COMECON [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] building in Moscow, and have not let anyone out since about 1700 [1400 GMT] on Friday [2 December]. An official representative of Most-bank has broken the news to agencies.

Most-bank occupies several floors of that building. In fact the seizure of our bank is being prepared, the Most-bank spokesman said.

Most-bank is hoping to organize a news conference today on the 21st floor of the COMECON building.

The Moscow administration of the Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Russian Federation Ministry of Interior said that their people were not involved.

Now I am going to acquaint you with the statement of the Association of Russian Banks:

During the afternoon of 2 December 1994, unknown armed formations have in fact seized the head office of the commercial Most-bank. All entrances to the bank have been sealed and its normal activity has been suspended. No explanations of this have been given; neither have official documents or ID cards been produced. The Association of Russian Banks expresses its resolute protest against such activities, because civilized methods of a rule-of-law state must be used in resolving any conflict situation. The Association of Russian Banks appeals to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin to urgently tackle the situation and to take steps to lift the blockade of the bank.

Yeltsin Orders Inquiry Over Incident

LD0312174594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1635 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—An operation causing deep concern to the public and banking circles was carried out on 2 December in the center of Moscow at the Mayor's Office building by one of Russia's special services, says a statement by Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, which was received today by Itar-Tass.

Boris Yeltsin has been informed of the complaints that procedural norms and human rights were violated during this operation. The president notes an incompetent lack of coordination between the special services and law-enforcement bodies in the carrying out of the operation.

The president has issued strict instructions that a service inquiry is to be conducted into these events and he is to be presented with an exhaustive report.

If any violations are discovered, the president will take very severe measures, the statement by the Russian president's press secretary says in conclusion.

Yeltsin Fires FCS Head, Chechen Link Possible

MK0312114094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Nika Stark: "Moscow Counterintelligence Service Beheaded"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday evening the presidential press service released a report on removing Yevgeniy Savostyanov from the post of Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] Moscow Administration chief. The president's decision to fire the head the Moscow counterintelligence service appears to be somewhat at odds with talk on possible terrorist acts in connection with the deterioration of the situation in Chechnya. On the other hand, the Chechen goings-on were bound to inflict losses precisely on the FCS leadership.

The edict was made public late in the evening, when most high- ranking officials of the presidential administration and the counterintelligence service had already finished work and left for the Davis Cup finals. The presidential press service, the FCS, and its Moscow Administration would not comment on the edict. Moreover, spokesmen for the administration said that they learned about their chief's removal virtually concurrently with the press.

Nonetheless, there are grounds to believe that Savostyanov's ousting is directly related to the development of events in Chechnya. The latest goings-on in Groznyy cannot be assessed other than a dismal failure of the Russian counterintelligence service. Naturally, the first blow was to descend on its leaders, particularly Sergey Stepashin.

Instead of Stepashin, however, it was the Moscow counterintelligence chief who suffered most—the first nonprofessional security service chief, who nonetheless managed to forge a working relationship with two Moscow mayors. Technically, there were grounds to blame him for the failure of the Chechen mission—Savostyanov,

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undoubtedly, was involved in devising the Chechen operation, and in late summer he even conducted preliminary reconnaissance on the ground. It was he who brought from Groznyy photographs of severed heads of "militiamen," who, to everybody's dismay, subsequently turned out to be Labazanov's hit-men.

Therefore, Savostyanov seems to have become the first figure spent in the struggle among top counterintelligence officials for retaining their posts. Some observers think, however, that the president could well have other reasons, too, for firing Savostyanov. Further development of events will show whether this is really so.

Yeltsin Signs North Caucasus Decree

MM0212163094 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Dec 94 First Edition p 1

[Edict of the Russian Federation President No. 2142, Moscow, Kremlin, 1 December 1994: "On Certain Measures To Strengthen Law and Order in the North Caucasus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to:

restoring and strengthening law and order in the Chechen Republic and certain North Caucasus territories of the Russian Federation;

stabilizing the situation in the North Caucasus region;

ensuring that persons not implicated in grave crimes against the civilian population and voluntarily laying down their arms before 15 December 1994 shall have the assistance of the Russian Federation president to exempt them from criminal liability for participation in unlawful acts associated with armed conflicts on the territory of the North Caucasus;

and mindful of humanitarian considerations, I decree:

1. That the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office is recommended not to take criminal proceedings against persons not implicated in grave crimes against the civilian population and having voluntarily laid down their arms before 15 December 1994 in connection with the change in the situation on the basis of Article 6 of the RSFSR Criminal Procedural Code.

2. That a proposal be put to the Federal Assembly State Duma that it examine the question of adopting a decree declaring an amnesty for the persons specified in Point 1 of the present Edict.

The Russian Federation President's State Legal Administration is to prepare within two days of the present Edict's entry into force all the materials necessary for such examination.

3. In cases where a judicial verdict of guilty is passed against persons specified in Point 1 of the present Edict for unlawful acts associated with armed conflicts on the territory of the North Caucasus, the Russian Federation President's Commission on Pardons is to submit immediately to the Russian Federation president draft edicts of the Russian Federation president on pardons for the said persons.

4. The present Edict enters into force from the moment of signing.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[dated] Moscow, Kremlin 1 December 1994

No. 2142

Discussion Ensues Over Decree

LD0212194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Boris Yeltsin in a decree on a range of measures to strengthen law and order to the Northern Caucasus has declared an amnesty for members of illegal armed groups surrendering weapons by December 15 and not involved in crimes against noncombatant civilians.

The Prosecutor General's Office is recommended not to bring criminal charges against such people while the State Duma is offered to draw up an appropriate amnesty act. The president has proposed that his own commission for amnesty matters work out similar documents.

Many say the move indicates Yeltsin's preference for political ways rather than military pressure on Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime at this stage.

They say that in a renewed appeal to the warring sides in Chechnya, the president has dropped the mention of imposing a state of emergency in that republic. The sentence saying "the hope for an independent solution to the internal conflict in Chechnya has been fully exhausted" is also absent in Yeltsin's new appeal issued by his press service.

Other say that Moscow's commitment to a peaceful scenario of events is also indicated by a statement on Thursday [1 December] from Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin who described the need for restoring the republic's industry and ensuring its citizens' rights as an important priority of the day.

Normal life must at last been allowed to come back in Chechnya, says the statement made available to Interfax news agency by the interim information center. Chernomyrdin pledged to get down to rebuilding the Chechen economy once things go back to normal there.

Almost all plants are at a standstill in Chechnya today with thousands of our people remaining without jobs and their families without means of subsistence, Chernomyrdin stressed. He believes priority measures must be taken to rebuild a leading oil refining complex there.

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Only one out of the three local refineries is operating at the moment, but even then at a 5-7 pct capacity. The statement says that oil pipelines must be repaired first to recommission the complex.

The prime minister also says that a good deal of effort will be needed to revive railway traffic through the republic linking it with other Russian regions and CIS states. He expressed regret that earlier agreements reached with Dudayev failed to stick. Chernomyrdin blamed mass unemployment in Chechnya for rising crime there including lootings of passing trains.

For his part, member of the presidential council Emil Pain does not rule out a forcible solution option for resolving the Chechen conflict.

This may include peacemaking efforts and disengagement of the warring sides as a way of bringing peace to the region, Pain told Interfax. But these should be limited so as not to lead to an outbreak of civil war, he said calling to ban those which might do so. IF Note: Earlier (before Yeltsin issued an amended appeal), the president ordered to set up a group to coordinate the process of disarming and disbanding all illegal armed groups in the region. The would be body to be led by Defence Minister Pavel Grachev was also to include heads of the force ministries - interior, the federal counterintelligence service and border troops as well as the ministries of justice and for emergency situations.

Pain does not believe that the situation has gone out of hand to an extent as to rule out any peace talks.

His view was echoed by one other council member Leonid Smirnyagin, a leading expert on regional affairs, who said that General Dudayev was being considered as a possible partner in such talks.

According to the interim information center, Speaker of the Federation Council (the upper house of Russian parliament) Vladimir Shumeyko does not expect any extraordinary measures after the expiry of the president-announced 48-hour ultimatum demanding that the warring sides surrender weapons. In his view, Russian troops deployed around Chechen borders face the task of preventing any armed groups from penetrating into that republic.

Shumeyko described as constitutionally-justified the president's actions aimed at restoring constitutional law and order to Chechnya and as being in line with Russia's state of emergency law. He said the law provides for a special legal regime as a way of rapid normalization, restoration of law and order and the removal of threat to public security. It also allows security forces to be used to assist police units.

Yeltsin Sends 'Concern' Message to North Ossetia

LD0312172794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1620 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 December—Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a message on 2 December to the bodies of state authority and the peoples of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic. Here is the full text of the document, which ITAR-TASS received today from the Russian president's press service:

Dear compatriots!

My message to you is prompted by extreme concern over and compassion towards the future of people who were left in unbelievably difficult conditions by the tragic events of October and November 1992. Thousands of enforced migrants were driven to despair, and deprived of shelter, work, and peace of mind. This terrible woe affected all the peoples living on the territory of both republics.

The government of the Russian Federation is adopting measures to eliminate the consequences of the conflict, to return families to their homes and to create conditions for them to live in safety.

Unfortunately, these measures have so far not produced the desired result. The reasons for this include the large number of weapons being held by the population, unceasing acts of terrorism and violence, the ineffective operation of the republic's bodies of state power, and their unwillingness to tackle jointly their peoples' future. The situation in the conflict zone is also aggravated by the general situation in the North Caucasus, and especially in the Chechen Republic.

All this compels me to adopt a decision to introduce a state of emergency on part of the territories of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic for a new term. At the same time I have instructed the government of the Russian Federation to adopt measures creating the conditions for the state of emergency to be lifted at a later stage.

I appeal to the bodies of state authority and the peoples of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic to help eliminate as soon as possible the factors which are preventing the normalization of the situation and the establishment of peace in both republics.

Kozyrev on Chechnya, Georgia-Abkhazia Talks

LD0212182094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kozyrev feels that "criminal gangs are locked up in fighting in Chechnya." That is why Moscow will be likely to act in keeping with the national Constitution to protect the Russian citizens in Chechnya," he told Russian media people who accompanied him to Paris Thursday.

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AND HOPES FOR MORE GEORGIAN-ABKHAZIAN NEGOTIATIONS

In response to a question from Interfax Kozyrev hoped that the Georgian-Abkhazian negotiations would continue in spite of the latest Abkhazian developments. It must be clear, however, that they must continue on the same basis, he said, the territorial integrity of Georgia must be recognized as moves must be made for the definition of the status of Abkhazia.

Russia's First Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratiyev feels that the new tensions around the Abkhazian developments must not hinder further peacekeeping efforts in the troubled area. According to General Kondratiyev, both Tbilisi and Moscow took the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict as "a bleeding wound."

It is no secret that although the peacekeeping operation launched in the spring of 1993 is described as Commonwealth, Russia and none other but Russia is in fact carrying it out, Kondratiyev told in an exclusive interview with Interfax. Whatever the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other organizations can choose to say on the matter in question, Russia is the best peacekeeper on the former Soviet territory, Kondratiyev said.

In Kondratiyev's view, the Russian peacekeepers in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict have met their objective. An end has been put to the fighting and there is to be no more fighting there, Kondratiyev said.

Addressing Abkhazia's recent decision to proclaim sovereignty, Kondratiyev said that euphoria about their victory brought the Abkhazian leaders, including Vladislav Ardzinba (President—IF note), to make many erroneous moves. Such a small country as Abkhazia cannot be self-sufficient. Abkhazia can survive either as part of Georgia, and this is what the Rusian leaders repeatedly tried to impress on it, or, eventually, as part of some other country. Abkhazia is neither economically nor politically fit to survive on its own, Kondratiyev told Interfax.

Kondratiyev rejected, most emphatically, reports on the transformation of the Russian peacekeepers into Abkhazian border guards on the Inguri river.

December 12 marks the end of Russia's six-month mandate for peacekeeping action in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. Kondratiyev said that Thursday Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reminded that to President Yeltsin. If Yeltsin tells it to go ahead, the Defense Ministry will request the Federal Assembly to consider, before December 10, the extension of the peacekeeping mandate. And, with agreement from the Federal Assembly, the Russian peacekeepers will remain in Abkhazia, Kondratiyev said.

Chernomyrdin on 'Restrained Optimism' in Chechen

LD0212214594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Friday Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin assessed the situation in Chechnya "with a restrained optimism." According to the temporary information center, Chernomyrdin, in particular, believes that "the president's address (October 29) has exerted a certain influence." "This is only the beginning and the success will depend upon the process of disarmament of illegal formations,' Chernomyrdin said.

"Introduction of the state of emergency is a really extreme measure and I hope that we do not speak about it now and shall not speak about it in the future," he declared. At present the major efforts are focused on the search for a peace and worthy solution of the problem by means of negotiations. "The goal of the federal authority is to stop outbreak of violence in Chechnya, permanent open violations of the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation. The main thing is to finally ensure conditions for a normal life to the people of Chechnya," Chernomyrdin said.

Chernomyrdin deems its necessary to do everything in order to hold democratic elections of power bodies in Chechnya "which will be recognized by everybody.' In his words, it is the prerogative of the Chechen people to solve the issue on the government. It is necessary that "the elections are held in a peace atmosphere, they should be honest and really democratic, - Chernomyrdin underlined. - Observance of law is the sole possible criterion." He also said that Moscow does not strive "to trample down" Chechnya, it is interested to interact "with all sound forces of the Chechen society."

Chernomyrdin resolutely rejected an opportunity of "a second Caucasian war" and said that one can speak only about restoration of legal order in one of Russia's integral parts. "This is not a war, not an inter-state problem, this is a normal reaction of the state power to lawlessness on the territory of the country," he said.

According to Chernomyrdin, events in Chechnya are of a local nature and all appropriate measures, if needed, would be undertaken to bar the neighboring regions from the attempts of "export of instability." "Appropriate measures have been undertaken due to the threat of a kind of "revenge" voiced from Chechnya," Chernomyrdin said.

Commission Head Sees Negotiations 'Unlikely'

LD0412131694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Byrkin and Vladimir Taranov]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 4 TASS—Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, chairman of the working commission for a settlement of the situation in Chechnya, believes that the president of Russia is unlikely to enter into negotiations with Dzhokhar Dudayev, since the present regime in that republic which is a subject with the Federation, has been recognised unconstitutional by the federal authorities.

The commission was set up on Saturday by a decision of the Russian Government.

Speaking at a press conference at the provisional information centre on Sunday, Mikhaylov pointed out that "everything depends on the Russian president himself and on political decisions by the State Duma and the Federation Council".

Mikhaylov is of the opinion that negotiations should be held through executive authorities. He did not rule it out that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin may join the negotiating process at a certain stage.

Meanwhile, the negotiations will be conducted by the working commission which includes representatives from Russian ministries and departments and members of the Federal Assembly. Key agencies are represented by the Ministry of the Interior. Participation of other powerful ministries was recognised as inadvisable but their representatives are to be invited as experts should the need arise.

Looks for Settlement

LD0312193194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1845 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Byrkin and Mikhail Karlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 3 TASS—A plenipotentiary working commission for negotiations with the Chechen warring sides and Chechen settlement has been formed today on the instruction of the Russian Government.

The commission is headed by Deputy Russian Minister for Affairs of Nationalities and Regional Policy Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, sources at the temporary information center told ITAR-TASS today. The commission includes deputies of the Federation Council, the State Duma, representatives of ministries and departments and scientists.

The commission has appealed to participants in the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic. The appeal noted that "innocent civilian residents of the Russian Federation are being killed, and the Russian south is on the tragic verge of civil war" and called on conflict participants to immediately start negotiations and normalize the Chechen situation.

The commission thinks that the first stage of negotiations "should find ways towards termination of bloodshed and disarmament of the warring sides which will enable the beginning of normal provision of the Chechen population."

Shumeyko Summarizes 'State of Emergency' Law

LD0512111594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043 GMT 5 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 5 TASS—A state of emergency in Chechnya may be considered by the Federation Council, the Russian parliament's upper chamber, only "after hostilities cease and all conflicting parties disarm." This statement was made for media today by Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko.

Shumeyko said Russia's law on a state of emergency postulates that "authorities of the state which carry out government in a state of emergency may be granted emergency powers" only "for taking measures required for rapid normalisation of the situation, restoration of law and order and abolition of threat to security of the population."

In accordance with the Russian and Chechen Constitutions, the people is the carrier of sovereignty and the sole source of power, Shumeyko said, adding that free elections are a direct expression of the popular power.

Shumeyko assured that the Federation Council "as a mouthpiece of interests of all Russia's entities will act best to be helpful in ending the bloodshed, restoring the constitutional order and conducting free elections in the Chechen Republic."

Chechens, Russians Agree To Talk

LD0512103294 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Late Sunday night the INTERFAX agency reported that official Groznyy has agreed to hold with the Russian working commission to settle the situation in Chechnya. Moscow was informed of this by a representative of [Chechen President] Dzhokhar Dudayev. Earlier the Chechen opposition agreed to the talks.

According to reports from Groznyy, the situation there remained calm on Sunday. Rallies of Dudayev's supporters continued in the capital, as well as the erection of barricades in case the situation should deteriorate.

Moreover, it is reported that Russian troops have been transferred to the Vladikavkaz area. However, the purpose of these transfers is not yet known. In Moscow a representative of the temporary information center

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refuted assertions originating in Groznyy that Russian troops have received orders to enter the Chechen capital before 10 December.

Grachev, Yerin, Travel to North Caucasus

LD0512094194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0917 GMT 5 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 5 Dec—Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, Federal Counterintelligence Service Director Sergey Stepashin, and Sergey Gryzunov, chairman of Russia's State Committee for the Press and head of the provisional information center set up by a government instruction, left for the town of Mozdok in North Ossetia this morning.

Sees Treaty as 'Ultimate Goal'

LD0412110594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1014 GMT 4 Dec 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Byrkin and Vladimir Taranov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 4 TASS—The federal authorities are prepared to conclude a treaty with Chechnya on the delimitation of powers, after the pattern of those signed with other subjects of the Russian Federation. However, this is the ultimate goal of a long process to settle the situation in Chechnya, Vyacheslav Mikhayklov, Russian deputy minister for ethnic affairs and regional policy, told a press conference at the provisional information centre on Sunday.

Mikhaylov is heading a plenipotentiary working commission, set up by a government instruction on Saturday [3 December] to deal with the problems of settling the Chechnya situation.

The first objective of the talks, which the commission is getting down to, is to stop bloodshed in the Chechen Republic and immediately disarm the warring sides, Mikhaylov emphasised.

The commission has already contacted representatives from the two warring sides and suggested meeting in any town of the North Caucasus. Replies from Grozny and Znamenskoe are expected in Moscow shortly.

The ultimate goal of the settlement process should be to conclude a treaty on delimitation of powers between federal power bodies and the Chechen Republic as a subject of the federation. The holding of free elections is viewed as an intermediate stage, the commission chairman said.

Mikhaylov said the commission is giving preference to diplomatic ways to resolve the conflict, proceeding from the premise that fragile peace is better than a violent quarrel.

Asked whether disarming the sides is an unconditional principle for normalising the situation, Mikhaylov told ITAR-TASS that this provision arises from President Yeltsin's message and if the sides really want an end to the bloodshed, this is the only acceptable option.

Mikhaylov said that if the sides refuse to disarm, which, he said, "depends to a great extent on Dzhokhar Dudayev", strongarm tactics may be resorted to, right up to the imposition of a state of emergency in Chechnya.

Economic Issues

Budget Group Continues 1995 Draft Calculations

MK0212124094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Ivan Zasurskiy under the "Details" rubric: "Government Rewrites Phony Prognosis. Old Policy's Prospects in New Conditions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's sitting of the budget conciliation commission which was expected to open at 1400 was rescheduled for today at the government's request. Today's sitting will be harmonizing the budget's expenditure items. At the same time, the government is supposedly rewriting the 1995 economic prognosis proceeding from the parameters set by Duma leaders on 30 November. Thus, it is more logical to say that the entire budget is being calculated once again, since changes in the prognosis which forms an inalienable part of the budget message will go a long way. At any rate, it would be stupid not to recalculate the revenue part of the budget for a higher rate of inflation (up to 5 percent a month, as was stipulated) considering the policy of an anti-inflationary covering of the budget deficit.

Yesterday, Duma sources commented on the results of the commission's 30 November budget discussion. It is being noted that Fedorov II [alluding to former Finance Minister Boris Fedorov] has appeared on the Russian economic horizon in the person of Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Aleksashenko. He insists: "A 2-percent inflation is a political decision of the government." This statement was in sharp contrast not only with the president's decision on holding a conciliation procedure on fundamental questions, but also with the position of new Finance Ministry head Vladimir Panskov, who is in the mood for a constructive dialogue.

Curiously, the prognosis unveiled to the commission differed from the one handed out earlier to the deputies. Inflation in it was increased from 2 to 3 percent, while the expected fall in production was not lowered (as one could logically expect) but increased as well, from 10 or 12 percent to between 12 and 14 percent. This entitles the deputies to say that the first prognosis was an open sham intended to con the deputies into believing it was "realistic." Incidentally, most of the deputies' questions on the budget remained without answers by the day before yesterday's commission meeting.

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The deputies' recommendations, which were supposed to guide the government in counting the whole thing once again, consisted of increasing the monthly inflation rate next year to (a realistic) 5 percent (matching this past summer's rate), and increasing capital investments in industry to 5-10 percent.

The State Duma sources say a serious scandal happened in the 30 November sitting. As a result, the part of the budget dealing with revenues from the government's foreign economic activities remained unadjusted. It appears that despite all the protectionist statements, the cabinet of ministers incorporated into the budget a stage-by-stage lowering of import customs duties, also covering food. This entitled the Duma leaders to claim: the government is conducting behind-the-scenes talks with foreign lobbies, resulting in a one-sided lowering of the customs tariffs on imported goods without any similar measures taken in regard to Russian goods by the foreign partners.

Regardless, however, of whether talks with foreigners are going on behind the scenes or on the international scene, one can only sympathize to a degree with the government of Russia (especially leaders of the new economic bloc). The point is that being hostages to inept policy in recent years, the ministers are also finding themselves in a rather unpleasant position between hammer and anvil. The hammer is, we believe, the Duma, and the anvil is the West, upon which Russia has been leaning and is going to lean yet in conducting the economic reform, "pawning" itself for the credits from the very same IMF.

Naturally, wielding such a degree of influence, the West can dictate its terms, something that has been happening until recently, and it can now argue not only with the internal political situation but also with Russia's new international role.

At the same time, while Russian politicians are combating "vestiges of the past," the West dictates its terms with which Russia agreed in 1992, and which have been honored until lately and applied to either the internal or external economic policy.

Be that as it may, it is obvious today that 1994 has not inaugurated a normal budget process—the draft will at best be passed in January 1995, analysts predict. For the time being, all signs are that some changes will be made in the draft—but it is possible, however, that the budget, uncertain as it now is, may be adopted for implementation. Without sharing the responsibility with the State Duma though, in which case it would have to be disbanded.

Committee Member Calls Proposal 'Unrealistic'

LD0212174694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Mikhail Krushinskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 2 TASS—"Somebody wants to provoke the president to dissolve the State Duma. Such is the essence of the draft federal budget proposed by the government for the next year", believes Aleksandr Titkin, deputy of the Federation Council, deputy chairman of the committee for budget, financial and credit regulation, money emission, tax policy and customs regulation. "As this document is absolutely unrealistic, it will inevitably be turned down by the lower house of parliament. After that the president will have a pretext for dissolving the lower house in keeping with the Constitution", Titkin told ITAR-TASS.

Titkin criticised the intension of the authors of the draft budget to cover for the budgetary deficit by means of state short- term bonds and external loans. The variant using state short-term bonds is not worked out, Titkin believes. As to loans, "Russia's external debt exceeded all indexes of debt existing in the world. If the trend continues, sooner of later creditors will have to be repaid with chunks of our territory", Titkin said.

Titkin believes the absurdities in the draft budget result not from low professional skills of the authors of the document but from their insistence on "monetarist dogma". Titkin pins hopes on the arrival in the Finance Ministry of a "sound professional, economist" Vladimir Panskov "who will be busy with money, as a finance minister should, and will not insist on upholding some ideas".

Titkin believes that people "who have no ability to conduct a debate seek to get rid of the Duma and are exploiting the president's fighting spirit".

It is apparent that the year 1995 will be ushered in without the endorsed budget, but this is no tragedy, Titkin said. As long as the draft budget is kept in the Duma, it can be improved by the beginning of the second quarter so as to catch up with the schedule by 1996.

In this connection Titkin regards the idea of putting off parliamentary election, fixed for December 1995, to a later date as quite sound. "It will not be bad if the new composition of parliament begins working when the 1996 budget is ready". The main thing now is to ward off a conflict between the president and parliament. Society is sick and tired of political upheavals.

Deficit Size Remains Undetermined

MK0312103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Kolokoltseva under the "Budget" rubric: "Government Agrees To Update Macroeconomic Development Prognosis for 1995. This May Trigger Budget Deficit Growth"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first outcome of the work of the conciliation commission created on the decision of the lower chamber of parliament to ready a 1995 draft

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budget for first reading is that understanding has been reached between representatives of the Finance Ministry and the Economy Ministry, on one hand, and the deputies, on the other, on amending the macroeconomic development prognosis for 1995. As Mikhail Zadornov, lower chamber of parliament budget commission chairman, stated: "The government has agreed to update the prognosis to come considerably closer to the requirements to which it is supposed to correspond. In particular, being revised upward are the rate of production decline in 1995, the monthly inflation rate, as well as the annual average exchange rate of the ruble against the dollar."

At the same time, the sides have as yet reached no compromise on a range of issues including the size of tax revenues, revenue from privatization, and the volume of foreign loans. The Finance Ministry is supposed to provide the Duma soon with additional information following which the current differences may be at an end. Still undecided is the size of the budget deficit. The Duma part of the conciliation commission thinks the government's desire to cut it to 7.6 percent of GDP while refusing to use Central Bank credits is unrealistic.

It is obvious, however, that the already made amendments in the prognosis are going to trigger serious alterations in concrete revenue and expenditure parts of the budget and, as a consequence, a bigger deficit. According to informed sources, IMF chiefs are seriously concerned about a possible "upward adjustment" of the base figures in the draft budget and may shelve the question of granting the credits already shown in the budget until the State Duma passes it.

Finance Ministry on Customs, Excise Duties

LD0212140294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In 1995, there is to be no change in the rates of customs' duties and the further liberalization of foreign economic activity should be achieved by lowering excise duties. This is stated in a document circulated by the Russian Finance Ministry entitled the Basic Directions of the Budgetary and Tax Policy of the Russian Federation in 1995.

Ministry experts, expect that, next year overall, revenues of about 20,119 million rubles will accrue from foreign economic activity. The forecast volume of Russian exports is $49 billion and the volume of imports is forecast to be $30 billion. This was an ITAR-TASS report.

Yeltsin Signs Produce, Food Rights Law

LD0212220194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the Law on Procurement and Supplies of Agricultural Produce and Food for Government Requirements Friday.

The Law, passed by the State Duma and approved by the Federation Council, lays down the basic terms of understanding between the government and agricultural producers. Farmers have exclusive rights over what they produce. That produce is their property and "may be disposed of at the producer's own discretion," based on economic considerations. Moreover, the "unimpeded movement of agricultural produce and food is guaranteed throughout Russia."

The Law provides for a two-tier central and regional procurement system: the government determines and forms the federal food reserves which are to provide for the needs of the Far North, contaminated or polluted areas, Moscow and St. Petersburg, and exports; and the regions form regional reserves to meet the requirements of the local population.

Agricultural produce, demand for which is fully satisfied by Russian producers, must not be imported or shipped using budgeted funds (federal or regional) except for when that produce is shipped to or procured for the Far North and adjacent regions.

Military and Space Issues

Defense Officials Discuss Reorganization

MK0312102094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Georgiy Romashov: "Reshuffles in Power Structures. Big Maneuvers Have Begun at the Defense Ministry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Against the backdrop of recent events going on in the country, a regular weekly working meeting, which was held at the Defense Ministry yesterday, appeared to have a fairly pointed significance. As usual, top officials of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff conferred behind closed doors. By evening it transpired that the generals had discussed the reorganization of the Defense Ministry. Information received by KOMMERSANT-DAILY may suggest that as a result of the reorganization several deputy ministers, Boris Gromov in the first place, could lose their posts.

Giving his backing to "the best defense minister of the past several decades," the president appears to have taken the next logical step: He enabled Pavel Grachev to reorganize the ministry and thus get rid of those he finds objectionable. Hence, small wonder that General Boris Gromov—who signed "Plea to the People," the ideological manifesto of the State of Emergency Committee members, and who "could not reach" the Defense Ministry on the night of 3 and 4 October 1993—may be one of the first to lose his job. What is more, it is believed that Gromov enjoys a much greater authority among the troops than Grachev.

The tactic of ousting Gromov is a fully bureaucratic one: the Defense Ministry press service told KOMMERSANT-DAILY that the reorganization is being carried

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out fully in compliance with the presidential edict. As a result, the Flight Security Service, which has been supervised by Gromov, will be placed under Konstantin Kobets' jurisdiction, while the Administration for Military Cooperation with the CIS Countries will be abolished because Commonwealth affairs will be taken over by the General Staff. People close to Gromov have no doubts about the fact that this will be followed by Boris Yeltsin's edict on removing him from office.

Deputy Defense Minister Valeriy Mironov, supervisor of the Personnel Administration, may also lose his job in the reorganization. Following the death of General Staff chief Viktor Dubynin in November 1992, Mironov, also an Afghanistan veteran, was tipped as his successor. He did not get the job, however, allegedly owing to his conservative political views, which he did not hide, as he denounced radical democrats and backed the moderates and great- power advocates. He is well known and respected among the troops, but he is not in the central staff's good graces for his tough manners and the ability to stand his ground.

Some in the ministry also think that the fate of another Grachev deputy, Vladimir Toporov, responsible for logistics and rear services, is all but sealed: his powers will apparently also be curtailed. He was appointed deputy defense minister after serving as commander of the Moscow Military District in 1991-1992. Observers do not rule out that the possible removal of the Defense Ministry's chief logistic and supply officer may be related to the scandal over the Western Group of Forces, because generals who served in Germany claim that everything that went on there was authorized by Moscow.

It is hard to say if the Defense Ministry leadership's work will be any more efficient after the cuts. There is no edict on removing any of Grachev's deputies yet, but on 1 December the minister confirmed that the number of his deputies would be reduced. Evidently, in this case the ministry will be more obedient; Grachev's opponents, threatened by further cuts, will have to keep a low profile, and the minister himself will significantly strengthen his hand. At least at the Defense Ministry central staff.

'Unusual' Aircraft Undergoes Test Flights

LD0412214094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network 1900 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Editorial Summary] A completely new flying machine has been developed in Russia. Correspondent Sergey Fateyev reports on it from the Tyumen Oblast. He says it seems like an UFO because of its unusual appearance and new construction principles. It can lift and carry loads up to 300 tonnes, which is crucial for carrying supplies to the Russian north and to remote mining or drilling sites; can hang in the air; land on any kind of terrain in any weather; and needs 10 times less fuel than a helicopter with the same freight-carrying capacity. It has been called the LASAR—letatelnyy apparat s aerostaticheskoy razgruzkoy [flying machine with aerostatic unloading]. It is now undergoing test flights and is expected to be in general use soon. It combines the qualities of plane, helicopter, and dirigible and rides on an air cushion. The chief designer is Aleksandr Filimonov. He has been invited to show the machine at the Le Bourget salon next year.

Cosmonauts Continue Space Station Experiments

LD0212150894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Flight Control Center, 2 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Aleksandr Viktorenko, Yelena Kondakova and Valeriy Polyakov are completing another week of their space watch aboard the 'Mir' orbital station.

ITAR-TASS was told at the Flight Control Center that the crew's flight program over the past two days included mainly work on resupplying the station and modules with the equipment which was delivered by the 'Progress M-25' cargo ship, and replacing the expendable elements of the life-support system.

As for scientific research, they completed another cycle of experiments in measuring the energy characteristics of space radiation and an appraisal of the condition of samples of construction materials set up on the outer surface of the complex.

With the purpose of a comprehensive study of the effect of weightlessness on the human organism, Dr. Valeriy Volkov carried out a series of experiments using the Austrian apparatus 'Monimer' and 'Optowert'.

According to the results of medical monitoring, all three cosmonauts are in good health. The flight is proceeding normally.

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Developments in Chechnya

Duma Delegation, Dudayev Agree on Hostages

LD0212214394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian parliamentary delegation and Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev reached a principal agreement on freeing Russian hostages "if they agree to be freed" and after observing some formalities during their talks in Groznyy today, State Duma deputy, a member of the Russian delegation Ella Pamfilova told Interfax today.

She said Dudayev and other Chechen leaders had displayed good will and willingness to resolve the problems peacefully.

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Pamfilova said Russian parliamentarians had been allowed to meet with fourteen Russian servicemen (soldiers and officers) taken military prisoners in Chechnya.

Pamfilova said the main task now was to put an end to unreasonable fighting which could become unstoppable if appropriate measures were not taken.

Other member of the Russian parliamentary delegation Anatoliy Shabad told Interfax that an agreement for freeing fourteen Russian prisoners had been reached with Groznyy. However, it is not clear yet when it can take place, he added.

Deputy Opposes 'Strong-Arm Tactics'

LD0212124794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Dec 94

[Report by correspondent M. Chernobrovkina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports that the planes seen over Groznyy last night are Russian were not confirmed by the Russian Defense Ministry, said State Duma Deputy Speaker Valentin Kovalev today. He also noted that the Russian deputies consider the use of strong-arm tactics in Chechnya to be unacceptable—an opinion shared by the lower chamber's delegation in Groznyy. He said that the State Duma is elaborating a possible schedule for a peaceful settlement of the situation in the republic, which is based on seven principles. The document demands the immediate disbanding of armed groups, the release of the Russian citizens, and democratic elections. According to the document, Chechnya will be granted economic aid and President Yeltsin should act as guarantor of the legitimacy of the elections and political stability. [video shows archive footage of Chechnya]

Lebed Calls For Compromise

LD0212195194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1708 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Commander of the Russian 14th Army stationed in Transdniester General Aleksandr Lebed believes Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Dzhokhar Dudayev can resolve the crisis in Chechnya "quickly and effectively."

"I don't know why the Russian president does not invite the Chechen leader to sit down and negotiate a compromise," Lebed told Interfax Friday.

He said Dudayev could have travelled to Moscow with his personal safety guaranteed.

"People are the same everywhere—we all want to live and nobody wants to die. The Chechens are a spirited nation, but everyone's had enough of war. For my part, I try to resolve an issue by peaceful means wherever possible."

Lebed said he doubted the opposition's Provisional Council wielded real power in Chechnya. "They've put some sort of opposition there together, but I can't see the point. All it's served to do is pit Chechen against Chechen," he said, commenting on the situation in the north Caucasian republic.

Lebed said "caution and accuracy" was needed in relations with Chechnya. "The situation must be thoroughly analyzed before acting," he stressed, adding that the first steps towards solving the crisis must be political ones.

Duma Delegation Holds News Conference

LD0312173694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 3 TASS—A Duma delegation has returned to Moscow today after visiting the Chechen capital of Groznyy. The deputies are sure that Chechen settlement by force [as received] would result in a catastrophe and affect the rating of Boris Yeltsin, delegation member Vladimir Lysenko told a news conference here today.

In his words, the president should be convinced of that at his meeting with the Duma delegation. The deputy also urged the need to free all servicemen taken prisoner during the storm of Groznyy and combat operations on Chechen territory. The delegation came to Moscow together with Russian Lieutenant Dmitry Volfovich and Private Aleksandr Danilov taken prisoner during the storm of Groznyy and pardoned by Dzhokhar Dudayev.

On behalf of all delegation members, Lysenko called for a parliamentary investigation into latest developments in the Chechen Republic and demanded to "clarify the preparations and holding of this action". The delegation thinks that the Duma should have a permanent post in Chechnya to minimize a possibility of military operations. The deputies also offer mediation in solution of many problems related to the Chechen Republic.

Lysenko stressed that the delegation members want to recommend Yeltsin to form an authoritative delegation from among deputies of the Russian parliament and representatives of the executive authorities to hold negotiations with the Chechen leadership, and Russia should be the first to offer this to the Chechen side. The delegation believes that Ingush President Ruslan Aushev would be the best mediator in negotiations with Chechnya.

Yushenkov on Talks With Dudayev

LD0312171294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1427 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sergey Yushenkov, head of Russia's parliamentary delegation which has visited Groznyy, declared that in the course of their conversation Chechnya's leader Dzhokhar Dudayev expressed readiness to solve refugees' fate from human position. In

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a short interview with journalists in Nazran (Ingushetia), on his way from Chechnya to Moscow, Yushenkov refused to call names of a lieutenant and a soldier of the Russian army released by the Chechen authorities.

In Yushenkov's words, three hostages from those captured by Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters during the unsuccessful assault of Groznyy on November 26 have been taken away in an unknown direction from the Chechen capital.

Members of the Russian delegation saw corpses of 12 people who are not identified yet. "Though it is difficult to identify their personality because the corpses are burnt, one can say that four of them are not Chechens," Yushenkov believes.

Referring to information of Chechnya's attorney general Usman Imayev, Yushenkov reported that there are 74 Chechens, supporters of the opposition, among the captives.

Dudayev Announces 'Mobilization'

LD0312152094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1425 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Byrkin, Mikhal Karlov, and Andrey Palaria]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Dec—Dzhokar Dudayev has announced the mobilization of the male population aged between 17 and 60 and is preparing for hostilities, it was announced today at a news conference in the temporary information center by its head, chairman of the Russian Federation Press Committee Sergey Gryzunov.

He noted that in Groznyy, mainly near the presidential palace, ammunition dumps are being set up, communications facilities are being mined, roadblocks are being erected, and sniper firing positions are being set up on the roofs of buildings. In addition, groups are being assembled to carry out acts of sabotage on oil refining enterprises and stores of fuel and lubricants. Firing points are being equipped to operate for a long time, and armored equipment is being buried in the ground for this purpose. According to Gryzunov, who expresses the official point of view, several hundred volunteers from the Transcaucasus and the Baltics have already arrived to join Dudayev's military formations.

The head of the temporary information center noted that in preparing for possible hostilities in Groznyy, Dudayev is trying to build his defenses in such a way as use his own people, including women and children, to cover himself.

About 800 people left Chechnya yesterday alone. All together, several thousand people have recently left the republic. The Russian leadership has drawn up a specific program of economic and humanitarian aid for refugees. A hospital with 150 beds has been operating for three months in Mozdok (North Ossetia).

Council Discusses Possibility of Air Strike

LD0312195694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A sitting of the Chechen Republic's Security Council was held in Groznyy today.

According to confidential sources, a report was submitted to the Security Council saying that a network of reserve camps for the eventuality of needing to evacuate the population and wage guerrilla warfare had been completed a week ago. Official reports say the Security Council discussed the plan of all-out resistance to a Russian troop invasion into the republic; the implementation of the plan has already begun.

The leadership of the State Security Department has told the Security Council that according to the information at their disposal a massive air strike is to be launched against Groznyy with the use of ground-attack aircraft and long-range aviation before 10 December. Igor Malov, Groznyy, POSTFACTUM, reporting specially for "Ekho Moskvy."

Captives Describe 'Contract'

LD0312195394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1926 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 3 TASS—Tank crew member Lieutenant Dmitriy Volfovich who was taken prisoner during the storm of Groznyy came back to Moscow from Chechnya with a delegation of State Duma deputies. He said he was ordered to "march and join the opposition forces".

Volfovich and Private Aleksandr Danilov concluded a six-million ruble contract with Russian Counter-Intelligence Service for one operation in capture of Groznyy. Under the contract, his family was to receive 150 million rubles in case of his death. The lieutenant said that the tanks had full combat ammunition. "They treated us well in captivity, they did not humiliate us, and the guards shared the last piece of bread with us," said Volfovich.

Volfovich told correspondents he considers himself to be "a citizen of Russia" and noted they asked him at the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service whether he will remain an army serviceman or join the Counter-Intelligence Service after the operation.

In his turn, head of the Duma delegation and chairman of the Duma Defence Committee Sergey Yushenkov said that the deputies "have proved that the Chechen problem can be solved through negotiations." He reported that there are few wounded Russian servicemen in Chechen captivity. It is also necessary to identify the dead, said the deputy. In his words, the Chechen side has promised assistance in this issue.

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The delegation members have met Duma vice-speakers Artur Chilngarov and Mikhail Mityukov upon their arrival in Moscow. A special closed-door meeting of the State Duma will be held on December 8 to discuss the Chechen situation.

Commenting on the Chechen trip, delegation member Vladimir Lysenko said he "has an impression that the tank drivers who stormed Groznyy were told to shoot only in extreme situations. Some tanks did not fire at all and moved backward when faced Groznyy defenders carrying grenade launchers." The deputy estimated the attempt to seize Groznyy as a "poorly-prepared operation".

According to Chechen statements, courts-martial will start functioning in Chechnya on December 4 to discuss cases of ethnic-Chechen pow [as received].

It seems that Boris Yeltsin was promised a brief victorious war similar to the U.S. action in Haiti in order to raise his authority, but this did not happen, said the deputy.

Dzhokhar Dudayev supported the idea of talks with Russia and passed the deputies a draft Russian-Chechen treaty. However, this document is a treaty of two independent states, and the Chechen side so far does not have a "compromise variant," stressed Lysenko.

General Staff To Coordinate Operations

MK0312111094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Vadim Yegorov under the "In Brief" rubric: "General Staff Officers in North Caucasus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has learned from informed sources close to the Russian Defense Ministry leadership that an operational group of the Armed Forces General Staff has left for the North Caucasus to coordinate upcoming operations of the Internal Affairs Ministry's interior troops and combat units of the Russian Army on Chechen territory. The operation group includes officers of the Main Operational, Main Intelligence, and Main Organizational-Mobilization Administrations of the General Staff.

Three Military Groups at Border

LD0312142394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Byrkin, Mikhail Karlov, Andrey Palaria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 3—Three strong military groups which "can be used to liquidate gangs on the Chechen territory in due time" have been concentrated on the Chechen border perimeter. A general staff team has arrived in the zone, head of the temporary information center Sergey Gryzunov told a news conference here today.

However, this does not mean Russia will conduct combat operations in the Chechen republic. In the words of Gryzunov, force can be used only after all political proposals and compromises suggested by the federal authorities are rejected.

'Two Approaches' for Crisis Resolution

MK0312094094 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Muratov from the "Exclusive" column: "Provocations and Casualties Are Being Planned"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA has learned from sources close to the Defense Ministry, there are currently two approaches toward resolving the Chechen crisis.

Interior Troops Commander Kulikov favors a general army operation. Lysyuk, commander of the famous Vityaz (Interior Troops Special Task Force) is already in Maykop with his unit. In Mozdok, a large "Afghan-type" military-field hospital is being deployed. Approximately 1,500 officers and conscripts are concentrated in the area in tent cantonments, recruited by the Federal Counterintelligence Service Third Directorate (military counterintelligence). It is they who are being persistently called mercenaries.

Training of Chechen opposition combatants continues in Solnechnogorsk (the Vystrel program), Prudboy (near Volgograd), and Osinovaya Roshcha (near St. Petersburg, where a combat engineers battalion is based).

On 30 November a conference was held on coordinating the actions of Interiors Troops and the Defense Ministry. The following task was formulated: Boost the morale of the troops as soon as possible and reverse Russian public opinion which is extremely negative toward Russia's being involved in a new Caucasian war.

As we have learned, a number of military leaders have discussed some extreme, wild options. For instance, the idea "of Chechen terrorists capturing a kindergarten" with its subsequent liberation, so that a holy wrath fills the hearts of the "common people" to overflowing and the working people themselves demand that the authorities stop the outrage.

Cause for an army operation and intervention in Chechnya was also discussed: A rumor could be circulated about the execution of one prisoner, and then P.S. Grachev will go ahead and carry out his famous thesis about "one airborne regiment resolving all problems within two hours."

According to information in NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA's possession, an act of "sabotage" is also possible at one of Moscow's 318 hazard installations. The great minds have rejected a plan for yet another plane hijacking.

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All this could be considered improbable if the events of the last few days had not shown: Russian policy in the Caucasus is pursued by provocative methods leading to war. Lubyanka recruits "mercenaries" as Su-27's take off from the Russian airfield in Mozdok for bombing raids. The procurement of armored equipment for the opposition is proceeding on a contract (!) basis (it would be interesting to know the official status of this equipment) with 150 billion rubles allocated Chechnya from the state budget for pensions and wages. (The editorial board knows the names of the banks through which these funds are processed).

Therefore we consider it necessary to avert possible provocations by making public the options we know about.

Commander Resigns To Protest Recruitment

LD0412055894 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0430 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] INTERFAX has reported that Major General Polyakov, commander of the Kantemirovka Division, tendered his resignation in protest against the fact that he was not informed about the recruitment of servicemen in his division for Chechnya. One of the captured servicemen in Chechnya was Lieutenant Dmitriy Volfovich, who returned to Moscow yesterday. His release by Dzhokhar Dudayev was a gesture of goodwill.

Kalmykov Meets With Dudayev

LD0412115494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1130 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 4 Dec—Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov met with Dzhokhar Dudayev on Saturday, an ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told by a top-ranking official in the apparatus of the Chechen leader who did not want to be named. The official added that, by mutual agreement, "the details of the talks and the authority which was invested in Kalmykov for his visit are not being divulged."

The duty officer at the Justice Ministry whom an ITAR-TASS correspondent contacted in Moscow refused to either confirm or deny the report from Groznyy, and said he "knows nothing about the minister's business trip."

'Details' Program Focuses on POW's

LD0412155394

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2020 GMT on 3 December carries an unscheduled 24-minute edition of the "Details" program. The program focuses on a report filmed in Chechnya by regular presenter Sergey Dorenko, which features interviews with Russian POW's still being held captive by Chechen Government forces.

Dorenko says he flęw to Mozdok airfield in North Ossetia with a State Duma delegation led by Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov seeking the release of Russian POW's held in Chechnya. At Mozdok, masked soldiers surrounded the airplane and refused the journalists on board, with the exception of the "Details" crew, permission to proceed to Chechnya. One of the masked soldiers told Dorenko that he was a "special forces soldier from the Ministry of Internal Affairs."

Dorenko says: "The local special forces soldiers were very proud of the installation they were guarding, which they described as one of the largest air bases in southern Russia." The reason given for keeping back is the presence of "Estonian snipers lying in wait on the surrounding hills." Dorenko points out that this had not been mentioned in Moscow when the journalists were given permission by the Defense Ministry to fly out. He also remarks that the personnel at Mozdok Air Base moved about at leisure. He notes also that there were "dozens of combat helicopters without markings or numbers" at the air field.

Dorenko then reports on the situation in the Chechen capital of Groznyy after the recent bombing raids. He says "the local inhabitants are convinced that it is Russian pilots who are bombing them, although Moscow does not admit to this." He says that the planes started bombing "residential areas" from a height of 10 kilometers, a height at which it is impossible to aim accurately, after "the Chechens started shooting down fighters flying at low levels." He says that on the night the Duma delegation arrived in Groznyy, eight civiians were killed in bombing raids and at least three children had their hands blown off.

Dorenko says that the talks between the Russian delegation and Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev's government had been very difficult. After saying that the Duma delegation had been "humiliated" by the air raid on the night of its arrival, he shows interviews he filmed in Groznyy with Yushenkov and Duma Deputy Ella Pamfilova. Yushenkov says it was neither in Yeltsin's or Dudayev's interests to use force to solve Chechnya's problems and that they should get rid of any advisers counselling its use. Pamfilova says she was very afraid that there would be a "bloodbath" with repercussions across Russia.

Dorenko says that Dudayev promised to release all of the Russian POW's who "agreed and were not afraid to return to Russia. Dudayev believes that the Russians would want to annihilate the prisoners, as they had become proof of a shameful blunder." Dorenko then shows a film in which he interviews 12 Russian POW's.

The men are dressed in combat fatigues. Each of the servicemen is allowed to make a statement to the camera before answering questions as a group. The first soldier,

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Major Valeriy Aleksandrovich Ivanov, says: "I would like with all my heart to send ardent greetings to my Defense Ministry, which abandoned me." Next, Captain Andrey Vasiliyevich Kryukov says: "I would like to advise all the lads to think about it before taking rash steps." Captain Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shikhalev says: "When we found out that Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said on television that there were no Russian servicemen on Chechen territory, you can understand how we felt." Senior Lieutenant Marsov says: "We are being treated like guests here instead of like enemies. It is very hard for us when we realize that we came here as killers and we were met as guests."

Dorenko then interviews Major Ivanov, Captain Kryukov, and Captain Shikhalev together. Asked what prompted them to go to Chechnya, Ivanov says that the "special section" [osobyy otdel], or "army intelligence" officer in his unit raised the subject and a Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] representative interviewed him and nine others, officers and warrant officers, inviting them to sign a contract.

Dorenko asks if they were told the truth about the mission at stake, pointing out that there was speculation that they had been asked to "simply drive tanks from one place to another." Kryukov says they had not been deceived as to the aim of the mission. However, they had been deceived about the real state of affairs in Chechnya. He says they were told that "there were no civilians there, and Dudayev was not there. The only people left were a few cutthroats, while the opposition was a real force."

Dorenko then asks if discipline was so bad in the army that officers could go off on secret missions without their superiors' knowledge. Kryukov replies that he and the other officers involved all wrote reports on the mission and obtained permission from their superiors up to the rank of lieutenant general.

A senior lieutenant says that when they were recruited they were told that their rights as Russian Army officers would be preserved in full and that they would return to their duties in their original units upon completion of the operation. Ivanov then says that they had suspicions that "our government was deliberately sending us to our deaths." Asked by Pamfilova and Yushenkov to clarify this, he says that, first, all of their identity documents and personal effects were collected from them in Mozdok, before the start of the operation. Second, after completing the operation in Groznyy, they were under orders to proceed to an assembly point at the nearby territorial army airport. They subsequently discovered that the airport was the most strongly defended position of the Chechen Government forces. When Yushenkov asks if they were ordered to attack the airport as part of the overall operation, Ivanov says: "No. After completing the task—that is, after taking the Groznyy White House, after the arrival of the opposition in power—we were supposed to go out to the airport, our assembly point, in the most strongly defended area." Third, all of the tank crews were instructed to paint their tank turrets white on the eve of the operation. They were told that they would be given air support during the storming of Groznyy and the paint was a distinguishing mark for pilots, but there was no air power around during the operation.

Dorenko says that the POW's were at first reluctant to be released as they feared that the people in Moscow who recruited them would try to make them deny their comrades' testimony. Dorenko concludes by saying that he saw an FCS representative in Moscow that day who told him that the FCS was concerned about the fate of the POW's.

Interim Council Ready To Start Talks

LD0412114194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1115 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Dec—The Chechen Interim Council, which opposes Dzhokhar Dudayev, said today it was ready to start talks. This was in reply to the proposal by the government working commission regarding the settlement of the situation in Chechnya.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned this from a spokesman for the temporary information center.

Dudayev Ready for Talks With Opposition

LD0412191794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1858 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Dec—Official Groznyy is ready to start talks with the opposition within the framework of the working commission for settling the situation in the Chechen Republic, a source in the provisional information center of the Russian Government has told ITAR-TASS with reference to Usman Imayev, justice minister and procurator of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeriya.

Dudayev Willing To Talk With Moscow

LD0512112994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1058 GMT 5 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 5 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today that he "always was and still remains a supporter of equal talks with the Russian leadership at the appropriate level."

At the same time, Dudayev again stressed in a telephone conversation that he regards the Chechen opposition as "criminal elements armed by Moscow." "They should be

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dealt with, and the procuracy and the courts are dealing with them already, and there cannot be any question of talks with them," he said.

Dudayev did not comment on his recent meetings with Russia's Minister of Justice Yuriy Kalmykov, and with other Russian spokesmen. He recalled again the position of official Groznyy which stipulates that "an immediate end to military aggression against Chechnya" remains a condition for the beginning of talks between Moscow and Groznyy.

Oil Spill Damage Estimated at Over $1 Billion

LD0212205494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1708 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The damage caused by the oil pipeline burst near Usinsk (Komi Republic) late summer has been estimated at over $1 billion by the Social Ecology Union (SEU).

SEU specialist Vladimir Zamoiskiy told a press conference in Moscow December 2 the actual amount of oil spilled by the pipeline (owned by the Komineft joint stock company) between August 23 and November 3 was 70-100,000 tonnes. He said as much as 20,000 tonnes of oil could be leaking unnoticed.

Zamoiskiy said pollution from the oil spill had not been cleared up and oil had found its way into the Pechora River.

Komineft is unable to clean the mess up on its own before April next year, when the thaw gets under way, due to financial difficulties, hence the virtual absence of any efforts at present, the press conference was told.

For the same reason, the SEU claimed, Komineft had brought work on a new 52-kilometer section of the pipeline to an end after completing only 26 kilometers.

SEU Chairman Svyatoslav Zabelin told Interfax foreign companies had offered no real assistance with the clean up operation.

Komineft has asked the Russian government for an additional 300,000-tonne quota for oil exports, the proceeds from which would go towards financing efforts to eliminate the effects of the accident.

Komineft officials, for their part, maintain only 14,000 tonnes of oil were spilled as a result of the accident. Nordeco, a Russian-US joint venture concerned with environmental work, says some 103,000 tonnes of oil and residue has found its way into the Pechora, which flows into the Barents Sea. Various Western sources have put the figures at 200-300,000 tonnes.

Komineft said an area measuring 26.4 hectares have been polluted, and Nordeco - 65 hectares.

'Komineft' Requests Additional Export Quotas

MM0512113194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "'Komineft' Asks for Additional Export Quotas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Komineft" joint-stock company, the main culprit in the ecological disaster near Usinsk, has asked the government to allocate a further quota for the export of 300,000 tonnes of crude oil: The funds will, it says, be channeled into eliminating the consequences of the accident.

Figures illustrate better than any words the situation with regard to additional exports. According to the assurances of "Komineft" itself the volume of oil spilled does not exceed 14,000 tonnes yet it has now emerged that it is necessary to sell 20 times as much to put the situation right. Either this is the cost of the ecological disasters in the Arctic or the figures of Western specialists, who assess the spill at 100,000 tonnes are more accurate.

The figure of 300,000 tonnes is far from being a mere drop with a total Russian export volume of 78 million tonnes. And another question is whether "Komineft" will manage to find a buyer for its output.

If things turn out well the approximate profit from the sale of 300,000 tonnes of oil will be $30 million. During the scandal "Komineft," arguing that the event was on a local scale, was far more modest and assessed the work necessary to eliminate the consequences at $20 million. We remember that for that period "Komineft" did not announce its financial insolvency and resolutely rejected free Western aid reaching $10 million. Now, as a trump card for extracting the quotas, it has been announced that there is not even the money to lay the new oil pipeline promised for 1 December. Never mind cleansing the territory....

The volume of the "Komineft" joint-stock company's oil extraction is approximately 10 million tonnes a year. Requests to sell a substantial quantity of oil output broad are particularly dubious in the winter period when the entire Russian Arctic is experiencing a harsh energy crisis connected, inter alia, with the shortage of petroleum products. But it is more advantageous to trade abroad....

Quite recently Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik told your IZVESTIYA correspondent of the need for tough control of oil exports and the likely restriction of special exporters to a maximum of 10 companies. Inasmuch as the question of additional quotas for "Komineft," which is not a special exporter, has been decided in practice, natural doubts arise as to the feasibility of these intentions in other cases.

Tatarstan Schedules Elections to State Council

MK0212141094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazan—The republic will soon have no Supreme Soviet. It is to be replaced by a State

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Council, elections for which have been scheduled for 5 March. A session of parliament has correspondingly amended the Constitution. The State Council will consist of 130 deputies to be elected in territorial districts with 67 of them to be working on a permanent basis. The session also passed a law on elections for people's deputies. Elections are now to be regarded as valid if there has been at least a 35-percent turnout.

Communists Active in Bryansk Oblast Elections

MM0212144994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by correspondent Vasiliy Shpachkov: "Communists Attack With Eyes Screwed Up"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bryansk—Provincial and politically conservative Bryansk has again been set in motion. The oblast duma is short of nine deputies from the city electoral districts. Having "voted" with their feet in the past the Bryansk inhabitants simply did not go to the polling booths in the spring and the situation in the duma today is unequivocally determined by the agro-communists. Without having actually embarked on the solution of the very important issues assigned them by virtue of their status, the deputies are endlessly accusing the oblast administration of the mythical "squandering" of funds and the "inflation" of the apparatus and are inventing other charges. So whether the supporters of fueling political passions will finally become lodged in the Duma or whether it is nonetheless possible to change the balance in favor of sober practical politicians depends on the by-elections scheduled for 11 December.

The Communists' heavy artillery has again been moved to the front. Petr Shirshov, chairman of the Russian Federation Federation Council committee for security and defense, will again run for the No. 1 Bezhitskiy electoral district [seat]. Although on the basis of previous elections the Bryansk people are wondering: How does the former city soviet chairman intend to combine his busy work in Moscow and—if he is elected—his work in the Bryansk Oblast Duma?!

In the No. 2 Sovetskiy electoral district Vasiliy Shandybin, now nominated as a Duma candidate by the Russian Federation Communist Party, has become very active, presenting the endless repetition of the words "down with" as a program. And again his words about the "antipopular regime" and the need to fight it are flying like heavy proletarian cobblestones.

While realizing that of themselves the elections already contain enough fuel, the Communists have started to place a further quantity of fuel on the bonfire of the already protracted conflict. In a letter to the Russian Federation Federation Council the president recently noted that there are no legal grounds for reinstating Bryansk Administration Head Yuriy Lodkin, whom he dismissed in the past.

Federation Council Member Petr Shirshov has stated that this question should be examined again at a session of the Russian Federation Federation Council. "And if the president again issues a document in the style of that letter then I... shall raise the question of passing the matter on to the Constitutional Court," he stated.

For former party functionary and former governor Lodkin the main thing remains the question of his claims to power. Continuing to assert his concern for easing the situation of the voters entrusted to him, the former party apparatchik for some reason forgets that he himself bears full responsibility for state affairs, initially as a Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic people's deputy and then as a member of the Federal Assembly. Moreover, participation in endless communist meetings and far from constructive criticism of the government and president during the desperate struggle for the return of the governor's seat can hardly be categorized as activity for the people's benefit. You can only fail to see this if your eyes are tightly shut.

Yet it is not activity in the form of slogans and meetings but specific concern which the Bryansk region inhabitants need today. During his three years as governor five people have been replaced here. Yet each change of administration is something like a small "typhoon" when the region's management system goes out of commission for a while. The Communists cannot fail to understand that but they are deliberately fueling the situation. Since 1989 the Bryansk people have voted every year. It is true that 1992 was an exception. On the other hand in 1993 they voted twice. And on each occasion, apart from wholesale criticism of the president and government the "friends of the people" are offering voters nothing. At the man in the street level this logic operates without trouble. Especially as the first fruit of the reforms are unripe and bitter.

Low Turnout in Novosibirsk Elections Reported

LD0512013294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2236 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Yelmakov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Novosibirsk, 5 Dec—The overwhelming majority of voters have ignored the elections to the Novosibirsk Oblast Soviet of Deputies, held in 14 constituencies on Sunday. Turnout in different constituencies ranged from 16 to 30 percent. According to preliminary figures in about half the constituencies, the necessary number of voters was not reached. The people's apathy was not unexpected. According to sociologists who have conducted opinion polls, the sharp drop in the political activity of the population is connected with the unfavorable sociopolitical situation.

There were 40 candidates fighting for vacant seats in the Soviet of Deputies. Most were registered as independents. Of the political forces, the most active was the

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local organization of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, which fielded seven candidates. The patriotic movement "Fatherland" [Otchizna] and "Working Novosibirsk" each fielded three candidates, "Russia's Choice" and "Deputies and Electors Club" two each, while the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia fielded one candidate.

Elections End in Chuvashia, Karelia

LD0412224494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1653 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—By-elections to local bodies of power have cnded in Russia. They were marked by relatively low activity among electors: On the average, no more than 25 percent of registered electors took part in the voting.

Residents of Chuvashia and Karelia were among the last to come to the polling stations.

In Chuvashia, our correspondent reports, about 20 percent of the electorate took part in by-elections to the republican State Council (14 mandates). This is sufficient now to regard elections as valid. According to a new law, a deputy needs to gain a simple majority of votes in order to get through to local bodies of power.

By-elections to the republican legislative assembly were held in Karelia today. The preceding elections on 17 April fell through because of the low turnout of the electorate. Now all the vacancies in the legislative assembly will undoubtedly be filled, an ITAR-TASS Petrozavodsk correspondent writes. The law sets the lower margin of participation in elections at 35 percent of the registered electors. The central election committee has deemed today's elections as valid.

Krasnodar Kray Election Irregularities Cited

MM0512115994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Oleg Dmitriyev: "Elections in Federation Components: Legality Checks Continue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Elections and by-elections to oblast organs of representative authority and local self-government were held in 20 regions of Russia in November. There were 215 deputies elected to 253 "regional legislator" seats, and 4,206 of the 4,273 seats in local self-government were filled. This made it possible for Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, to describe the campaign as relatively successful.

The most complex election result picture is in Krasnodar Kray. The situation of antireform forces predominating in the kray assembly (of the 50 seats, 15 are controlled by the "Fatherland" bloc, 10 by the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, and two by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, whereas Russia's Democratic Choice and "Yabloko" did not get a single deputy in) is compounded, by all accounts, by serious irregularities in the elections for the Sochi City Assembly. The statute on the elections drawn up by the head of the city administration was not published, in direct contravention of the Fundamental Law. There have also been complaints to the Central Electoral Commission from observers, State Duma deputies, and members of electoral commissions with consultative votes about violations of the procedure for voting and campaigning at polling places on election day. The Central Electoral Commission has set up a special group to look into these complaints.

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International Affairs

Kuchma Arrives at CSCE Summit

LD0412171094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma arrived in the capital of Hungary on 4 December. He will take part in the CSCE summit which will take place on 5-6 December in Budapest. As is known, it is planned that a memorandum on security guarantees for Ukraine in connection with its accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will be signed during this meeting. Leonid Kuchma will also make a speech at the plenary meeting. It is expected that he will meet leaders of a number of member countries of the Budapest summit and leaders of the Ukrainian cultural society in Hungary and will also visit the Ukrainian Embassy in Hungary. [passage omitted]

Kiev Receives Guarantees, Signs NPT

AU0512105594 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Budapest, Dec 5 (AFP)—Ukraine signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Monday [5 December] in exchange for guarantees on its security from the United States, Russia and Britain.

The Ukrainian Parliament ratified the NPT conditionally on November 16 specifying that this would not be effective until there were security guarantees.

This was the first time that an NPT adherent has obtained such a special guarantee, accorded because Ukraine has agreed to renounce the nuclear capacities and strategic arms it inherited from the Soviet Union.

Under the assurances, the parties recognise the teritorial integrity of Ukraine and the nuclear parties undertake not to attack a non-nuclear state.

Udovenko on Current Policy Issues

AU0212153194 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 29 Nov 94 p 19

[Interview with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko by Pavol Vitko in Kiev; date not given: "We Do Not Give Preference To Either the West or the East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although our foreign policy is oriented explicitly toward the West, it would certainly be unwise to stop charting the developments among our eastern neighbors. Therefore, we turned to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko. He has only been in this post since October and PRAVDA is the third foreign newspaper (after IZVESTIYA and THE WASHINGTON POST) to which he has granted an interview.

[Vitko] Mr. Minister, Slovakia and Ukraine have concluded a Treaty on Friendship, Good Neighborliness, and Cooperation. The treaty is one thing, but profiting from all the opportunities it opens up is another. To what extent have they been realized?

[Udovenko] Following the establishment of an independent Slovakia, you probably also experienced a national euphoria, which was manifested in foreign policy by working out how many states have already recognized you, how many international agreements you have concluded, how many foreign embassies there are in your country, and how many ambassadors you have appointed throughout the world. It is more difficult to begin complying with these agreements. Our mutual political relations can be characterized as dynamic and positive. Our geographic proximity and especially our historic experiences—which, for us, are better than with any other country—therefore provide us with opportunities to forge genuine commercial-economic, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation. I have to say, however, that it would be hard to assess solely positively the realization of our agreements with Slovakia. After all, our mutual trade turnover last year amounted to some $289 million. This was far from corresponding to our possibilities. Apparently, it will be even less this year.

[Vitko] What is your view of the endeavors of your western neighbors—including Slovakia—who are striving for admission into Western European structures, including NATO?

[Udovenko] I am well acquainted with these endeavors, because I was ambassador in Poland for the past two years. I can say that Ukraine understands the endeavor by its western neighbors to join NATO. At the same time, however, we would like to ensure that Ukraine's national interests are not disregarded. The prospect that the North Atlantic Pact could end on Ukraine's western borders and that the Agreement on Collective Security—signed in Tashkent by the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (SNS)—would begin on its eastern borders disturbs us. Ukraine is not in any military bloc. It will not be in any bloc. This is enshrined in its Declaration of National Sovereignty of 16 July 1990. This does not mean, of course, that we are not trying to integrate with European structures. We are also cooperating with NATO in certain spheres. We were the first SNS state to sign the Partnership for Peace program.

[Vitko] How would you define the system of guarantees for your own security?

[Udovenko] We once came up with the idea of establishing a zone of security and cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe. It would fill the vacuum that emerged following the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. The majority of the surrounding countries, however, want to join NATO. They advocate the formation of a European security system, not a regional one. Despite this, we would like at least a conference to be held on this topic involving the states concerned. After all, there is—for example—the Visegrad Four in the region. Ukraine would be happy to join it, but they do not want her there.

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Another security issue is associated with the fact that Ukraine has given up nuclear weapons. Therefore, we turned to the four nuclear powers—the United States, Russia, France, and Great Britain—to give us guarantees for our national security. These would cover political independence, territorial integrity, and the unchangeability of our borders. The heads of the aforementioned states and Ukraine will sign a memorandum containing these guarantees at the summit to be held in Budapest on 5 and 6 December.

[Vitko] In western Ukraine, in the Transcarpathian region, certain political entities are striving for Ruthenian statehood or, as the case may be, for territorial autonomy.

[Udovenko] We have encountered the endeavor for Ruthenian statehood before. However, there is more hullabaloo surrounding Ruthenian separatism than there is support for it from the Transcarpathian population. Only a couple of people are behind it. Sometimes it seems to me that you are making more of it than we are. I am convinced that these activities have a negative influence on the development of our young republics. The fact that some Ruthenians regard themselves as Ukrainians is ignored. We are obliged to create the conditions for the Ruthenians' general—especially their cultural—development. The same applies to other minorities. We will not accept their political demands.

[Vitko] How do you view the attempt by the mayors of Slovak, Hungarian, Polish, and Ukrainian border towns to create a Carpathian Euroregion?

[Udovenko] We do not reject this idea in principle. I even welcome it. I do not see anything negative—with regard to the country's sovereignty—in Euroregions, although some states have adopted such a stance. However, we will not only support border contacts—in this context, I can mention the close contacts being forged between Gdansk and Odessa. We would also like to resume the severed international links that our cities or regions had from the time of the former USSR.

[Vitko] To what extent have political relations between Ukraine and Russia stabilized?

[Udovenko] Normalizing relations with Russia is now our main foreign policy task. I think that what has happened in this region during the past three years of our independence has not been normal. Just to illustrate—in Russia, we lost 30 percent of our markets, and we gained almost nothing in the West.

We are counting on there being no senior and no junior partner in our relations. We are forging equal relations and we are discussing a wide range of issues. For example, we have not signed an inter- state treaty with Russia, as we did, for instance, with you. We are working on it and a further 25 agreements. They will deal not only with basic political issues, but also—let us say—with a system for claiming alimony.

By far the most complicated issues are the Black Sea fleet and Crimea. I would not like to dramatize these issues, because we are working on their—I hope successful—resolution. It is necessary, however, to admit that relations with Russia are partly determined by our debt. It is possible to adopt different stances toward its amount, but it is definitely more than $2.0 billion. For this reason, we can only be pleased that Russia will supply us with gas on credit.

Overall, I would like to emphasize that we do not give preference in our relations to either the West or the East. We are striving for a balanced West-East policy. Our president, Leonid Kuchma, has just been in the United States and we are preparing to welcome Boris Yeltsin to Ukraine.

[Vitko] Could you acquaint us with the dynamics of relations within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States? To some, this association seems formal, while others see the danger of the expansion of Russia's interests...

[Udovenko] On the contrary. The SNS is holding back the expansion of Russia's interests. If we continue to stick to the word "independent," then there can be no talk about any kind of expansion. A collective spirit without domination prevails within the Commonwealth. More than 300 agreements have already been signed within the framework of the SNS. However, I have to state—with regret—that they have not manifested themselves very much on a practical level.

[Vitko] In conclusion, a question about the sadly notorious Chernobyl nuclear power plant. It would also reassure our citizens if they were to be objectively informed. How dangerous it is still and when will its remaining reactors be shut down?

[Udovenko] If we were to shut down Chernobyl, it would be like severing an artery. After all, it produces almost 25 percent of our electricity. If we close it down, we have to build a new one. It would cost $10 billion. Who will give us this money, since we do not have it ourselves? Its operation is under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Therefore, at the moment, we do not consider the power plant, but the casing in which the exploded reactor is concealed to be the problem. For this reason, we have announced an international competition for the best project to secure this casing against any new danger.

We are currently expending 8.0 percent of the state budget on compensation and on paying for the damage caused by Chernobyl. This is more than we are investing in the army. We are taking care to ensure that nothing like this could ever happen again. Therefore, I urge people to be calm.

Warns Against NATO Expansion

LD0312162294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1145 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels: "The complicated process of NATO's expansion must not be thoughtlessly

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rushed and has to proceed through gradual evolution and take account of the security interests of all European states with no exception," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told a sitting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC] on 2 December.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry press center has informed UNIAN about a series of talks and consultations held by Hennadiy Udovenko with the foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Lithuania within the framework of his participation in the NACC forum to discuss the state and prospects of bilateral relations, attracting foreign investment, assisting Ukraine in carrying out economic reform, and regional and all-European security problems in the post- confrontational period.

At the NATO headquarters, the foreign ministers of Ukraine and Luxembourg signed an agreement on cultural cooperation between the two states.

Rightists Protest Chechen Policy, Send Fighters

MK0212125094 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Kiselev: "Ukrainian Volunteers Have So Far Not Managed To Reach Groznyy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The developments in Chechnya have causes serious alarm among circles of the extreme-right Ukrainian national-patriots.

The Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists (CUN) staged a protest action outside the Russian Federation Embassy in Kiev. Participants in this action picketed the Russian embassy building for one hour chanting "Freedom to Independent Chechnya!" Following this, Ukraine People's Deputy Mykhaylo Ratushnyy handed to the embassy counselor an appeal voicing a protest against a policy of neo-colonialism Russia is trying to conduct in regard to non-Russian peoples in the Russian Federation. The appeal also puts forward the demand to stop the aggression against Chechnya immediately, to recall from it all Russian armed groups, and to discontinue all help for the pro-Moscow anti-Chechen forces.

A spicy detail. Slava Stetsko, CUN chairman—she is also chairman of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists—told me that coming out to talk with the protesters was a Russian embassy counselor who spoke neither Ukrainian nor English, whereas the CUN envoys, according to Mrs. Stetsko, did not speak Russian.

Later in the day, the CUN held an action in Kiev to commemorate Shamil, imam of Dagestan and Chechnya—a fighter for the liberation of the Caucasus mountain people from Russian slavery, as was stressed.

"We express deep indignation at the fact that big Russia has joined a war against small Chechnya," Slava Stetsko told me. "Today they will rout Chechnya, tomorrow Georgia, the day after tomorrow it's Azerbaijan, and then Ukraine's turn will come. This is indeed the resumption of Moscow's old aggression which one would not expect to see repeated at the threshold of the 21st century."

In Slava Stetsko's view, all the so-called Chechen opposition which is fighting against the legitimately elected president of Chechnya are nothing but a gang of criminals to whom Russia gave money and weapons. And Mrs. Stetsko sees the only chance of stopping the armed conflict in Chechnya in Russia's discontinuing its support of the Chechen putschists.

In the meantime it has come to light that another ultra-right national-patriotic organization, UNA-UNSO, has sent a big delegation to the Transcaucasus. Their plane was supposed to land in Baku, from where the passengers intended to make their way to Groznyy. Such is the official version. Nevertheless, rumors persist that UNA-UNSO sent to Chechnya its volunteer fighters. Heading the group is Yuriy Tima, "soldier of fortune" and people's deputy of Ukraine, who already fought as a UNA-UNSO fighter first in Moldavia [Moldova] on the Dniester Region's side, and then in Abkhazia on Georgia's side.

The above plane, though, did not make it to Baku and, according to information available to UNA-UNSO leaders (the information has, incidentally, also been confirmed by First Vice Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk), was forced to land in Moscow, and its passengers have been detained by the Russian military.

UKRP Issues Statement

AU0212151694 Zhytomyr KLYCH in Ukrainian No. 22 p 3

["Statement by the Leadership of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party in Connection With the Situation in the Chechen Republic"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The events that continue to unravel around the Chechen Republic indicate unambiguously that the policy of the present Russian leadership, although it is trying to appear before the whole world in a democratic guise, is aggressive and militant. The attitude toward the freedom-loving Chechen people on the part of the so-called unbendable Russian opposition that, in fact, represents various types of imperialist predators, fully coincides with practical actions of the existing power structures of the Russian Federation. The official policy toward the forceful overthrow of the legitimate President Dudayev through giving comprehensive support to the chauvinist forces that are behind Khasbulatov, a traitor of the Chechen people, unmasks Moscow's allegedly "peacekeeping" policy, which it pretends to be pursuing in the whole post-Soviet area, and shows the true face of the imperialist enslaver. The unconcealed aggression against the small republic by a

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huge country that occupies the area from the Baltic to the Pacific resembles recent events in the agonizing Soviet Union around recalcitrant Lithuania, something that started the disintegration of the communist empire. The similar policy pursued by Moscow regarding the unbendable Chechen Republic will, in the final analysis, inevitably lead to the disintegration of the still existing imperial state—the Russian Federation.

The Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party [UKRP] leadership is convinced that, from the point of view of Ukrainian national interests, it is necessary to speed up the process of Russia's disintegration into independent national states, and, to this end, Ukraine's supreme state and political leadership must make the following steps:

1. It is necessary to condemn the aggressive imperialist policy of the Russian Federation and recognize the state independence of the Chechen Republic.

2. To render comprehensive practical assistance to the heroic Chechen people in its just struggle for national liberation.

3. To occupy a firm position in the United Nations, the CSCE, and the CIS on opposing Russia's mandate for carrying out so-called "peacekeeping" operations in the entire post-Soviet area.

4. To raise, in all international organizations of which Ukraine is a member the question of declaring the Russian Federation to be an aggressor with all its legal consequences in conformity with the current international law.

The UKRP leadership expresses solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Chechen people for its independence and voices every support to it.

Pinzenik Commits to Reform, Hopes For Loan

LD0312104894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukraine Government on 1 December officially requested the World Bank to back a restructuring program with a rehabilitation loan in a sum equivalent to $500 million.

Ukraine's First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pinzenik in a memorandum on economic reform policy informed World Bank President Lewis Preston about the Ukrainian government's intentions, as follows: to impose financial and monetary restrictions, to be complemented by the respective taxation policy; to liberalize domestic market prices, and foreign trade and currency operations; to discard the system of state orders; to develop the private sector of the economy and free domestic trade; to actively initiate the process of privatization; to apply liquidation procedures and bankruptcy legislation; to bring in realistic positive interest rates; and to take steps to strengthen payment discipline. A special-purpose social security network will be formed to safeguard those groups of the population that are particularly sensitive to changes due to economic restructuring.

The Ukrainian government gave assurances that it would systematically review compliance with the requirements of the memorandum on economic reform policy and the protocol on negotiations between the Ukrainian Government and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, with the first review to take place no later than 31 March 1995.

The final decision on the provision of this loan is to be taken by a World Bank Board of Directors sitting on 22 December, while the first tranche of rehabilitation loan, $250 million, should still reach Ukraine this year.

National Affairs

Kuchma Signs Constitutional Law Draft on 'Power'

LD0212191094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1708 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma has signed a draft constitutional law on central and local government, his press service told Interfax-Ukraine news agency on Friday [2 December].

The new law gives sweeping powers to the head of state including the appointment of a prime minister and his cabinet. Under the existing constitution, it is the parliament which appoints a new prime minister and heads of the force ministries.

The president is vested with powers to dissolve parliament if it twice rejects a government-proposed plan of action or fails to approve a proposed budget within three months. However, this is conditional to prior consultations with the Chairmen of the Supreme and Constitutional Courts.

Regional and district councils are to be abolished and their functions to be taken by regional or district administrations. This brings an end to the system of Soviet Government.

Earlier, Kuchma said that the power-sharing law is to be adopted for an interim period until a new constitution was approved.

In an interview with Interfax-Ukraine, he said that if the law was rejected by parliament, he was planning to call a nationwide referendum on its main provisions.

Kuchma Comments on Economic, Political Policy

WS0512112594 Kiev VYBIR in English 0059 GMT 5 Dec 94

[Interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, identified as "L.K.," by VYBIR correspondent identified as "UPressA"; place and date not given—from the "Current Interview" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UPressA—Mr. Kuchma, it is interesting to know how it happened that the general

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manager of a big state-owned enterprise turned to be a leader of reformation movement of the independent country?

L.K.—There is a saying "all must be done in the right time". When Mikhail Gorbachev initiated essential democratic reforms in the former Soviet Union many people including me developed their own understanding of what was happened around, though nobody dared express such thoughts aloud. At that time people like myself were trying to solve practical problems and supposed that politicians will be doing their business with the same assiduousness and responsibility as industrialists were doing their business. Those who worked for the military industry were not allowed to go abroad, especially managers, therefore the only source of information for them were newspapers. Due to my first trip abroad in December 1989 I have got a lot of new things to deliberate, compare and planning. New thoughts, opinions always set free the thoughts of people to a certain extent, that is why I decided to participate as a candidate in the elections of the People's Deputies of Ukraine and when I became a Deputy I could not remain at the contemplating position.

UPressA—Am I correct saying that you did not advance your candidacy for the position of the Prime Minister of Ukraine?

L.K.—I was very categorical about not being the Prime Minister. I did not have any intention to head the Government since I thought that I should have keep working at my plant where I felt confident of the business I was engaged.

UPressA—After you resigned from the Prime Minister position have you considered the possibility of coming back to "big politics" through the contemplated presidential elections?

L.K.—No, of course not. I reiterated to myself and to people that having worked as the Prime Minister I experienced so much that I saw no way of coming back for myself. I have not had such intentions.

But the people had quite a different opinion. First I agreed to head their Industrialist and Entrepreneur Union of Ukraine and subsequently the situation developed on its own. As the President of the Union I could not stay aside neither from political nor from economic life of the country. The purposeful impediment of the economic reforms which was taking place in Ukraine could not leave me indifferent. Criticism voiced either by myself or the Union was not unfortunately considered constructive. Subsequently the leaders of five regions of Ukraine came to me and pursued me not to leave the big politics. To say the truth by that time I have been already convinced by the life. Therefore, I became one of the candidates for the presidency and the people supported me.

UPressA— From the very beginning you resolutely commenced the work. Speaking of the plan of cardinal reforms proposed by you, which of its constituents are not subject for discussions and pertinent to which you admit the possibility of the compromise decision with your political opponents?

L.K.—I admit possible compromise on any questions except two. First, the question of radical reforms implementation, since I understand reforms as an industrialist: for instance if to withdraw a link from a technologic line the whole cycle will break. This is the reason why nothing can be withdrawn from the programme where we have developed a complex approach to economy, which, in my opinion can give it the chance for success. I think nothing can prevent Ukraine from becoming a modern European state.

Another important link concerning which there may not be found a compromise solution is single vertical executive power. Sad tradition of uncertainty in the questions of submission to the executive power. As you probably know the previous Supreme Council and Ivan Plyushch exerted all efforts in order to implement in life the sense of the famous Soviet motto "All power to Soviets!"

The current Supreme Council also make attempts to step back and aggravate the situation, having forgotten the fact that in the epoch of the Soviet Union all power was concentrated in the hands of the Communist Party but not Soviets, or perhaps they remember it too well.

Apart from it I think it is impossible to make decisions collectively, someone must take personal responsibility for them. I hope that finally the common sense will prevail, once the whole historical experience proves that the countries managed to overcome the crisis found the solution in the mighty executive power.

UPressA—Must it be headed by the President?

L.K.—The President must be the head of the executive power. Whether it must be a single team? I always say that the future belongs to the situation when the most influential party comes to power, the leader of this party becomes the President, he is supported by the majority in the Parliament, he forms the Government and takes full responsibility personally.

UPressA—How do you estimate the chances of successful implementation of reforms proposed by you?

L.K.—I would like to emphasize the following. Two years ago I would not have dared to get involved in implementation of this programme, since I understood clearly that Ukraine did not have sufficient potential to overcome the crisis without help from outside. Today the situation has changed together with the opinion of the leading western specialists. Now they really understand that on the world map has appeared an independent state Ukraine, which must play a significant role. So, the chances are much higher at the moment.

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Successes and Failures Mark Kuchma's Term

WS0512103094 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 25 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Dmytro Dzhanhirov: "Political Preference or the President Without Trumps"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Certain foreign policy successes of the new Ukrainian president—credits from the World Bank and the renegotiation of gas debts to Turkmenistan—were tarnished by repeated increases of prices for goods and services. No doubt, although the price hikes this fall were largely caused by activities of former President Kravchuk and acting Prime Minister Zvyahilskyy, the fact that they coincided with the announcement of the new market course makes the present leadership "responsible for deterioration of living standards." Aside from such a "little detail" as the inevitable decline of the president's popularity, the political situation in Ukraine has undergone substantial changes.

The "Left"

Historic experience shows that declining living standards make the position of the left-wing forces an increasingly important factor in domestic policies. In addition, unlike during Kravchuk's presidency, the Communists are well organized and together with the Socialists and agrarians hold a majority in the Supreme Council. November price increases offered the leftist forces an excellent opportunity to break the temporary and volatile "marriage of convenience" concluded during their struggle with Kravchuk and the "nationalists."

Leonid Kuchma is well aware of the threat coming from his open confrontation with the left legislative majority if only because they both share the electorate in the eastern and some of the southern parts of Ukraine. This is why, asked about his attitude toward the declaration made by Communists condemning the announced reforms, the president cautiously answered that he was conducting consultations with the Communists, and is ready to cooperate with them.

Speaking about relations between the president and the left, two factors should be remembered. First, disagreement among the left forces themselves, is increasingly dividing them along the Communist Party-Socialist Party line. Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz has openly spoken for the market economy—of course, on condition of "strong state regulation," which sounds like a social-democratic position anyway. In addition, the vote on the president's program proved that the Communist ranks are split between the "orthodoxes" (46 "no" votes) and the "pragmatists" (27 "yes" votes). Curiously, the Communist Party [KPU] leadership is often considered to be the latter.

Second, there are certain differences in positions of the leftist leaders, Moroz and Symonenko, and local organizations of their parties. "Local comrades" are certainly more radically opposed to "bourgeois reforms" than their leaders, whose flexible political maneuvering is often beyond comprehension of rank-and-file communists and socialists.

All this compels the leftist leaders, even if with some reservations, to support the president's program and secure additional footing in relations with their conservative fellow party members.

Most importantly, regardless of tactical failures or successes, the left-wing forces, largely thanks to the fine political gamesmanship of Oleksandr Moroz, adopted a convenient strategic position: they have not become the opposition, nor did they assume responsibility for Kuchma's reforms, which are dubious both by their implementation methods and the results. It is a pity that you can not stick to this kind of position for a long time. So, the time will soon come for the left to state what they stand for.

The "Pragmatists"

Beyond any doubts, this category includes the factions "Center," "Unity," and the MDH [Interregional Deputy Group]. There is a widely-held opinion, not without reason, that centrist pragmatists, most of which come from the old nomenklatura, are expected to become the foundation for the president.

Of course, the MDH was designed as the "Kuchma faction" from the very beginning, while the "Hrynyov party," which is being created from the MDH's backbone, is designed as the pro-presidential structure in the hinterland. The faction "Unity," which has a very narrow regional orientation (almost all of its members come from Dnepropetrovsk Oblast), and the president are linked by the "place where the personal career was made." Most important, this faction has yet to repay a small debt—its informal leader and chairman of the oblast council, Pavlo Lazorenko, supported the wrong Leonid in the presidential elections.

The faction "Center," which someone has wittingly described as being "united by the territorial principle" (almost all of its members live in downtown Kiev), carried a while ago an explicitly nationalistic string, which made it look like a possible candidate for cooperation with national democrats and nationalists. However, the election victory of Kuchma will force the "Center" to review its preferences, because only the "line of a victor" is the "most correct" for the nomenklatura.

As for future relations of the president with the "pragmatists," one can assume that the present "honeymoon" will not last too long.

The presence of Volodymyr Hrynyov, with his outstanding leadership skills in the party, which is now being created on the basis of the MDH, will inevitably put internal strains on relations between liberals and the former nomenklatura struggling to preserve strong state

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regulation of the economy. This threatens to result in a split weakening the president's base.

The faction "Unity" reflects the desire of regional elites to have complete dominion over "mandated territories." Propelled to power largely through discontent of the hinterland with Kiev policies, Leonid Kuchma was forced to look at them with his predecessor's eyes right on the next day of his presidency, that is, see them as a threat to the centralized administration of the country. (It is most likely that being a former Soviet manager, the president stands for autocracy and centralization). So, with eastern Ukraine (Donbass, in the first place) dissatisfied with the country's leadership, the "Unity" may well become an opponent of the current president, explaining that by a concern for "people's well-being."

The "Center" will be loyal to Kuchma as long as it finds a "strong leader" for itself capable of regaining the state elite status—that is, as long as most of the "Center" members are the "nomenklatura out of power," the faction can be easily transformed into the "nomenklatura in opposition."

The "Right"

The Rukh and "Statehood" factions are typically included to this category.

Their policies regarding the president are very easy to describe: They are right, but they are "our" right! Traditionally, they behave like the mirror reflection of the left. The farther left they diverge from the president, the more actively the "Statehood" would "offer itself." This does not apply to the Rukh so much. Vyacheslav Chornovil tries to stamp out any intention of compromising with the power in the movement. This, by the way, allowed him to retain the minimum of accepted popularity rating—by contrast to, say, the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Ukrainian Democratic Party, and other organizations that "compromised themselves" by cooperation with Leonid Kravchuk.

But the "Statehood" and Rukh's activities may contain a new element. The point is that Volodymyr Pynzenyk, the newly appointed deputy prime minister, is from Lvov, and territorial considerations often dominate party membership in Ukrainian politics. Although, it should be remembered that Galicians [in western Ukraine] are far from being like-minded people. Despite many factors, Viktor Pynzenyk, and therefore, Leonid Kuchma can count on the support of national democrats.

On the other hand, the experience of the previous president shows that it is better to lose in eastern than in western Ukraine.

The Faction "Reforms"

This faction deserves special attention for two reasons. First, it launched the political career of the current deputy prime minister, Viktor Pynzenyk, who is the main official "in charge of" reforms. Second, the faction's composition is extremely mixed, and its members should probably be described as young ambitious politician rather than reform supporters. These two factors determine the faction's fate: some of its members will agree to its submissive status in dealings with the president and deputy prime minister in the hopes of personal gain, while others, Volodymyr Lanovyy above all, might join the ranks of the opposition.

As the reforms are getting under way, all Ukrainian political forces will have to determine their attitude toward the reforms in general and the president in particular. Nothing can be more illusory than general loyalty.

Crimean Deputies Fail To Pass No Confidence Motion

LD0212142794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 2 Dec—Crimean deputies failed to determine their attitude toward the presidium. A secret ballot of no confidence on 1 December lasted well into the night. Under the law on the status of a deputy, recently passed in Crimea, the decision could have been enforced had at least two thirds of the deputies voted to uphold it. However, only 32 of the 98 deputies took part. The session is to continue at 1200 hours on 2 December.

Viktor Mezhak, Supreme Council of Crimea deputy chairman, said that was the beginning of grave turmoil in parliament.

Chernobyl Victims Demonstrate for Special Rights

AU0212205494 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Nov 94 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Again Picketing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As stated by Yu. Andryeyev, president of the Ukrainian "Chernobyl" Association, tomorrow [1 December] at 9:30, the association will start a protest action in order to dissipate the misconception, which is taking shape in the top echelons of power, that the association's positions have weakened and that it is incapable of organizing mass protests against the encroachment upon the rights of the Chernobyl victims. In Kiev, pickets will be stationed in front of the Supreme Council building; in other cities there will be speeches by Chernobyl victims in support of the pickets. During the picketing, the association will demand that its proposals regarding national programs for privatization and for the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident be taken into account; it will also demand special legislation on taxation and medical insurance and the government's report about the fulfillment of the state "Chernobyl" programs, starting from 1991. In order to introduce personal responsibility for the implementation

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of such programs, the association proposes the introduction of a vertical structure of presidential power in the state.

Parliament Approves Amendements To 1994 Budget

LD0312164494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ukrainian parliament Friday [2 December] gave its general backing to amendments to the 1994 budget, with a revised deficit of 117.3 trillion karbovantsy.

Finance Minister Petr Germanchuk said the deficit was 10% of gross domestic product. However, people's deputy Vladimir Chemeris said 10% "could not be right given that the deficit was 17% after only 10 months."

"That 10%," he said, "was the cabinet attempting to contrive things the way the International Monetary Funds wants them." The IMF insists on a 10% maximum deficit for Ukraine to qualify for credit.

Parliament voted to instruct the government to finance wages, pensions, grants and efforts connected with the elimination of the after-effects of Chernobyl as first priority due to a shortage of finances.

The cabinet must also, within a month of passing new tax laws, draft the 1995 budget for parliament to debate.

Voucher Privatization To Start Soon

AU0512072994 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 1 Dec 94 p 1

[UKRINFORM report: "Our Vouchers Will Be Flown In Tomorrow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our vouchers will be flown in tomorrow. This was stated to journalists by Yuriy Yekhanurov, chairman of the State Property Fund. The property privatization certificates are being printed in the United States at the expense of the U.S. Government. To begin with, the certificates will be distributed in several oblasts. Therefore, in December, the first owners of Ukrainian vouchers will appear in our state. My task, pointed out Yuriy Yekhanurov, is to create panic [azhiotazh]: Let people worry—it started elsewhere, and I haven't got it yet.

No later than March, all property certificates will be distributed among Ukraine's citizens. By that time, a network of auctions will start functioning and practical work will begin. Those who fail to receive certificates in time will not be discriminated against. Everybody has his own account and has the right to use it.

Regarding the Crimea, certificates will be delivered there in January 1995. Everything will be done so that the Ukrainian voucher is a success there. When a so-called struggle is under way, the people lose, and we will not allow this to happen, said the chairman of the State Property Fund. All the rights of the Crimean residents will be respected. If a Crimean resident purchases shares of a Lvov plant or of a Donetsk factory, believes Yuriy Yekhanurov, it will only be to everybody's advantage.

Decree Exempts Coal Industry From Debt Repayment

AU0512113294 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Nov 94 p 8

["Ukraine's Supreme Council decree on Implementing Ukraine's Law 'On Exempting Coal-Extraction and Coal-Concentration Enterprises of Ukraine's Ministry of Coal Industry From Repayment of Their Debts'" signed by Ukraine's Supreme Council Chairman O. Moroz on 11 November 1994]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's Supreme Council resolves as follows:

1. To put into effect Ukraine's law "On Exempting Coal-Extraction and Coal-Concentration Enterprises of Ukraine's Ministry of Coal Industry From Repayment of Their Debts" starting from the day of its publication.

2. To authorize Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers jointly with Ukraine's Supreme Council standing commissions for issues of the fuel and energy complex, transport and communications, budget, finance, and banking activity to analyze all decrees issued by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers regarding the coal industry over the last two years. To report upon the conclusions at the plenary session of Ukraine's Supreme Council in the first quarter of 1995.

Chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council, O. Moroz

Kiev, 11 November 1994

'Many' Mines To Close in 1995

LD0412221994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received]—Ukrainian First Deputy Premier Viktor Pynzenyk has stated that a significant number of coal mines will be closed beginning from February 1995. The regulation of coal prices will be abolished. Today only one third of Ukraine's coal mines are capable of operating without subsidies. About 65,000 people are employed in the country's 250 mines. The expected extraction of coal in 1994 amounts to 95,300,000 tonnes (116 million tonnes in 1993). Although such a step will be carried out in accordance with the demands of the MVF [abbreviation not known], Viktor Pynzenyk noted that economic necessity was dictating the closure of unprofitable mines by the beginning of next year.

Official Views Essence of Agrarian Policy

WS0212151594 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 24 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Academician Petro Trokhymovych Sabluk, deputy prime minister for agro-industrial issues: "The

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Agrarian Policy; New Approaches"—first paragraph is DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Petro Trokhymovych Sabluk was born in 1941. He is of peasant origin. He is a Ukrainian by birth. He is a doctor of economic sciences, professor, the academician of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. After graduating from the Agricultural Academy of Ukraine he worked as an accountant in a kolkhoz, a senior economist in the oblast agricultural department, and an agricultural school instructor. Beginning from 1971, he dealt with research. He became director of the Agricultural Economics Institute in 1988. He was nominated as deputy prime minister for issues of the agro-industrial complex [APK] in August 1994.

There are no issues of secondary importance in the economic situation in Ukraine that was formed under the joint influence of multiple factors. It is very difficult to resolve all of these trying issues. The situation in the food-producing sector of our economy—both inside and around it—is, without any exaggeration, the most significant and trying for us.

A lasting disregard for the interests of agricultural workers and the sector in general (both in the former USSR and in independent Ukraine), has put the most important economic sector—based on enormous natural resources—on the verge of survival. The most industrious worker—a farmer—has been deeply humiliated.

Given the current situation, a considerable portion of our society—this is of a particular threat to us—including government officers and lawmakers, do not want to (or cannot) realize this idea and their actions toward agricultural workers do not differ from the notorious examples from our recent history.

It is high time that all of us, first and foremost, the executive and legislative branches, realize that the threat posed by food shortages leads to a lack of military and political security. If we realize this situation, we will soon stand on our own two feet, achieve the international standard of provisioning, and begin producing foodstuffs for both domestic and exporting needs. If the intellect of an individual does not allow for the realization of this idea, he should recall the story by Arkhyp Teslenka "Pushing to a Pit." I am not exaggerating.

One of the reasons that triggered the current situation in the food-producing sector of our economy is that Ukraine has failed to form its own agrarian policy over the years of its independence. When Ukraine was part of the former USSR, it had to operate within the limits of the agrarian policy that met the existing demands. As is known, that policy sometimes failed to meet Ukraine's interests and correspond with the situation in Ukraine.

Ukraine has also failed to shape its national agrarian policy over the years of its political independence. The first step in this direction, however, has been taken. The basics of the national agrarian policy have been completely covered by a report "On the Path of Profound Reforms" delivered by the Ukrainian president before the Supreme Council.

The most important tenet in the president's report is strategic orientation toward harmonizing relations between the interests of the state and agricultural workers. This issue has never been raised in such an aspect before. We lived according to the motto of a song: "You should first think about the state and only then about yourself." A farmer understood these words as follows: He gives all his products to the state, while the state hands him only its leftovers. When the president explained the strategic aim of his agrarian reform—referring to the emergence of a real landowner and the socioeconomic development of a village as the tasks of paramount importance—he implied a lot of things. The socioeconomic interests of agricultural workers—irrespective of a specific type of property relations, which met their interests at a specific period of time—have not only been recognized but have been called priority tasks.

An approach, as well as the demands on an agrarian policy are also of particular importance. Scientific justification and constructive purposefulness—based on the socioeconomic expediency and necessity—are among the most important ideas of this policy. In fact, a principally new methodological approach—having nothing in common with the old one that was based on outdated ideological dogmas—has been drafted.

Tenets covering the role and place of agrarian policy in reforming the national economy on a market basis are also important. Two aspects of such a policy are of particular importance. On the one hand, the branches of food-producing sector have the most favorable conditions—compared with other production sectors—for the development of market relations. On the other hand, a well-developed market mechanism in APK should become a key element and stimulus to accelerate and deepen market relations throughout the state's economic system. Well, the agrarian policy—in this respect—is directed toward the achievement of an agreement between the interests of the agricultural sector, the food-producing complex, and the national economy in general. A consecutive approach toward adopting extraordinary decisions in the agrarian sector has been chosen.

One such extraordinary decision is related to the land issue, or, to be more specific, land reform. The profound nature of land reform is regarded as a foundation for an overall reform of the entire system of production relations in the agricultural sector. This issue cannot be raised any other way, because land has always been and will be the greatest wealth for a farmer. If a farmer is guaranteed the right to own land, he will become a true landowner.

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The right to own land as private property is the issue of the most heated political debates. Polarization of opinions on this issue—from those politicians who are supporting this idea to ones who are against it—is too great. So, can private property on land become a dominating type of property in Ukraine? I am declaring—I do not doubt my words—that private property on land can and should become domineering. One of the simplest moves in this direction is the implementation of laws which already exist in Ukraine. In addition, farmers' plots (or shares of land)—according to acting legislation, private plots will be apportioned to individual agricultural workers after collective agricultural enterprises receive land in ownership—will be granted the status of private plots. This tenet has been included in a presidential edict covering the acceleration of land reforms.

The extension and deepening of privatization process in APK—of course, on a more perfect methodological and organizational basis that takes into consideration all the expertise in this area—should become an important element of the modern agrarian policy. We cannot but be concerned by the attempts of some politicians to considerably extend the list of enterprises of the food-producing sector of our economy subject to privatization. If this move is implemented, the sector—it, in fact, is the one that is most prepared for privatization—could be left outside of the privatization process. We cannot allow this thing to be done.

The implementation of land reform and privatization of state property will logically result in the equal development of various forms of property. A few state-owned enterprises, of course, will retain their property relations. Other enterprises will be united in corporations and joint-stock companies. Nonstate agricultural enterprises will not only preserve their significance but also acquire new features. Their production-organizational foundation—based on the principles of the unity of private property on land, the means of production, and collective (belonging to groups and cooperatives) forms of property with a considerable production-and-financial independence of their organs—will differentiate them from current kolkhozes and other forms of collective agricultural enterprises. Therefore, they will become cooperatives primarily based on the private property of their members. The entire world has encountered this path and we cannot be behind things that are common for all the people and rather efficient.

Farms managed by individual agricultural owners will be supported. There are various viewpoints on this issue among agricultural workers. Adversaries of individual farming—both open and covert—take advantage of this situation. Any impediment to the development of individual farming, however, is senseless.

Agricultural workers—as well as other people residing in rural areas—who own subsidiary plots as their property will receive greater opportunities to efficiently develop their economies.

Despite all positive modifications in the types of ownership and forms of property, there will be no movement forward, unless the economic mechanism in APK—including its means of pressure on a village, first and foremost, prices and taxes—is changed. These factors are among the ones that are negatively affecting our economy.

Our agrarian policy also reflects the fact that a few pricing systems will operate—fixed, guaranteed, regulated, and market prices and tariffs—at the stage of introducing market relations. The task is to thoroughly substantiate the rational unification of these pricing systems. Prices, however, will be primarily formed under the influence of demand and supply in the future.

The approaches toward the tax and financial-and-credit policy toward the agricultural sector should also be revised. This policy is currently directed against a village and, therefore, against all consumers of agricultural products, first and foremost, against the residents of cities.

The social revival of a village is perhaps the most important aspect of agrarian policy. The approach to this issue is as follows: If there is a village, there is a state. The social development of our village, due to evident reasons, has, in fact, been halted and, in general, has dropped to an inadmissibly low level.

To overcome the indifference of the state toward the social needs of a village, it is necessary to regard the decisions adopted by the state to strengthen the social basis of a village as key components of agrarian policy, promptly draft other legal norms, and begin to urgently implement them. Unless these moves are done promptly, great socioeconomic difficulties will develop along our path.

The agrarian policy should resolve another issue of paramount importance. This policy should create a new sociopsychological aura around a village, as well as around an agricultural worker. As for this task, agrarian policy should regard the agricultural sector as a supra-sector, a specific sector of sectors; its problems should be resolved—at least—as the problems of our basic sectors are resolved. Given the current situation, agricultural problems should be resolved with even greater attention. We should jointly create conditions to make work in the agricultural sector more prestigious. An agricultural worker should become one of the most respected people in the state. Even though I realize that such a situation will not emerge as soon as we would like it to emerge, I am convinced that these tasks will be fulfilled. This situation, however, will emerge only if the state pays greater attention to the needs of the agricultural sector. The state has no other way out, because, if it does otherwise, it will be immediately left without the understanding and support of agricultural workers. You should not strain your nerves to realize what the end of this situation could be.

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We can often hear fears voiced that the key principles of the president's economic and social policy will not be implemented. Well, such fears are reasonable if we take into consideration how our ambitious programs were resolved in the recent past. The current situation, however, is different.

We are observing a huge amount of interest in the president's policy. The most important point is that this policy has aroused the interest of ordinary people, on whom, in fact, the implementation of this policy depends. Even though not all people perceive this policy the same way, it should be regarded as an innovative policy demonstrating a greater vitality of its components.

We should be ready to realize that the implementation of this policy will not be easy. We, however, cannot fail to implement it because our future, as well as the future of the generations to come, the future of the state, and the place of our country in the international arena depend on this policy.

Reasons Viewed for Adopting New Agricultural Laws

WS0512115794 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 25 Nov 94 pp 1,2

[Article by People's Deputy Volodymyr Kravchuk: "The Agricultural Sector Requires Reforms, But Not Make-up Changes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political regrouping—triggered by Leonid Kravchuk's programmatic statement before the Supreme Council—is under way. We are going to present the viewpoint of V. Kravchuk, people's deputy from the constituency in Belaya Tserkov and a representative of the Supreme Council agrarian faction, to our readers.

We, as people's deputies of the 13th Supreme Council, which is rather unpopular with the people, have to work in an extremely difficult period. On the one hand, the people are happy that Ukraine has become independent. On the other hand, they are discouraged by the collapse of the economy, the decrease in the standard of living, reduction in production, and considerable lack of faith in society. We have to specify at this turning point in history what we should do to overcome a total crisis.

The agrarian faction supports that portion of the presidential reform program which says that the agricultural sector can and should play a key role in the economic development of Ukraine.

It is an old truth that there cannot be a sound economy without a sound agricultural sector. Agricultural production has dropped by 20 percent in comparative prices over the last three years. The financial situation at enterprises and organizations of the agro-industrial complex has been sharply aggravated. The prospects for 1995 are not very bright as well.

We have already realized that the current management of the agricultural sector is inefficient and our economy cannot rely on its support. Collective management of the economy is primarily based on two factors, that is, on issuing orders and granting subsidies from the state budget. These factors do not operate today, however, a third factor has emerged. Milkmaids and machine operators have been involved in "grabatization." The current management—when a manager of an agricultural enterprise is protecting collective property alone—is inefficient.

Therefore, the current system of managing the agricultural sector should be changed. Leonid Kuchma, who presented his program of reform before the Supreme Council, was correct when he said that our village requires profound reforms—not make-up changes—which should be introduced through land reform and reform of property relations.

Land reform, however, is not only a division of land and its subsequent sale to private owners. Land reform is related to all economic branches and sectors of our life. We should draft a normative-legal and scientific foundation for it. I am referring to the following matters. If we embark on land reform, we should know exactly what results we will achieve in the future. To be more precise, every agricultural worker should know what the prices for land and land taxes will be; he should be convinced that land property will become an element of the constitution, and so on. There are many disputes and ambiguities surrounding the purchase and sale of land. People are eager to know if there are countries that are based on land leasing and do not have private property on land. The state should specify the stages for conducting land reform. It cannot happen, for example, that land reform is conducted only by the powers-that-be, and is suspended under new authorities. If we embark on land reform, it should not be subject to cancellation. Finally, all of us—the president, the Cabinet of Ministers, and the Supreme Council—are responsible for drafting a mechanism to control the utilization of land and the course of land reform. As is known, given private property on land, one of the most difficult problems is how to prevent land profiteering. Ukraine is particularly threatened by land profiteering because our national currency is weak.

Summing up everything I have said, I would like to state that the basic principles of agricultural reform should be specified as soon as possible, because the number of reform supporters depends on this condition. This is our future, even though it is our immediate future. We are, however, living in the current situation. If we manage to resolve our current problems, this will become a condition for launching reforms. We have to complete this agricultural year, we cannot leave our fields unharvested.

In connection with this, I would like to remind you of an old truth. The issue of financing state contracts and orders should be resolved as soon as possible. The state

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should return some 40 trillion karbovanetses to producers of agricultural goods that have already been delivered. Producers, in turn, should purchase fuel and lubricants to complete field cultivation in the fall because everyone knows well the difference between the productivity of land with and without fall ploughing.

The second issue is that the Supreme Council, along with the Cabinet of Ministers, should jointly adopt a package of legislative acts to regulate relations between producers and the state. Legislative acts covering state contracts and orders, taxes imposed on producers of agricultural goods, as well as the formation of agricultural prices should be drafted. My third point is that it is necessary to establish state committees for agricultural machine building and the chemical industry as bodies of the agro-industrial complex. There is sufficient proof showing that if this is not done, the agricultural sector will quickly die.

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Belarus

Lukashenka Leaves for CSCE Summit in Budapest

WS0512090094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The meeting of state and government leaders of CSCE member countries, which opens today in Budapest, will undoubtedly become the major event of this week. Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has flown to the Hungarian capital to participate in the summit. [passage omitted]

Warning Against NATO Expansion

LD0212211294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leadership of the republic can refuse to cooperate with the North Atlantic Alliance in the case that NATO expands by admitting countries of the Central and Eastern Europe, first deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Tsepkalo said in an interview with Interfax on Thursday [1 December] in Minsk.

In his words, if new countries join the alliance, NATO "will near Belarus' boundary whereas the republic has not been invited to this organization." "Naturally, it will not assist in increasing confidence between Minsk and the North Atlantic alliance," Tsepkalo said.

He attracted attention to the fact that after a long period of "a cold war" NATO has "the worst image" in the eyes of the public of CIS countries against the background of other international organizations. "We do not say whether NATO poses threat to Belarus or not, Tsepkalo stressed. The problem largely concerns the population's perception of the fact related to appearance of a force on the Republic's western border which was considered a hostile one for a long time. The Belarussian politicians will be forced to follow negative public moods' lead."

According to Tsepkalo, "if the Eastern European states join NATO there will be a new division of the continent on spheres of influence and the trend towards integration among CIS states will acquire a confrontation character with respect to the West." "This will be not the peace integration which is underway now. It's hard to predict to what consequences it can lead," he underlined.

At the same time Tsepkalo pointed out that Minsk does not view NATO as "a hostile military-political alliance" and treats with respect the inalienable right of states to choose their international partners." "Undoubtedly, it concerns Poland. Hungary, Romania, and other countries which wish to join NATO," Tsepkalo explained.

To this effect he reminded that in the near term Minsk would officially join NATO's Partnership for Peace program. This document, Tsepkalo said, contains a mechanism preventing possible re-division of Europe.

The problem of NATO's expansion "will not be solved in the near term though it is being discussed rather actively," Tsepkalo said.

City Mayor Resigns Over 'Vertical Line' Plan

WS0512115194 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1600 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Henadz Karpenka, leader of the Party of Popular Accord, has announced his resignation as chairman of the Maladzechna-City Executive Committee. His resignation request will be examined at a session of the City Soviet scheduled for 15 December. Henadz Karpenka first declared his intention to resign immediately after the Supreme Soviet empowered President Lukashenka to appoint heads of executive committees in the provinces. The Maladzechna mayor was waiting for the Constitutional Court's decision on this matter. As is generally known, the Court confirmed the lawfulness of the president's intention constructing the so-called presidential vertical line—an effort [to] appoint chief executives in the provinces.

Protection Measures Drafted for Contaminated Areas

WS0512115294 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1600 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The concept for measures intended to protect residents of areas affected by radioactive contamination was discussed at the expanded session of the Ministry for Emergency Situations and Protection of Population from Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe, also participated by representatives of the Supreme Soviet committee on Chernobyl and the involved departments. The concept has been implemented for several months. From the very beginning, the experts and politicians has displayed absolutely different approaches to protection measures throughout the eight years that passed after the accident. But things have been made clear at last. The National Commission for Radiation Protection (NCRP) unanimously approved a document which contains two fundamental conclusions. First, the document formally established that the radiation situation in the country has stabilized and the Republic has entered the last stage of the accident. Second, from now on, protection measures should be designed based on to the effective radiation dose which falls on inhabitants in every concrete populated area affected by radioactive contamination (until recently, the surface contamination of territory per square kilometer has been used as a criterion). In accordance with international recommendations and conclusions by Belarusian scientists, the concept provides protection procedures in the areas where the annual

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effective dose exceeds natural background by 1-4 millesiverts. The concept advises against living in the areas where individual effective dose is more than 5 millesiverts. The concept also contains the basic protection guidelines.

According to Ivan Kenik, the minister of emergency situations and protection of population from consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, the NCRP decisions in the sphere of radioactive consequences has the same legal force for the Belarusian government as the Constitutional Court's resolutions for state government bodies. If the Cabinet of Ministers passes the new concept, concrete procedures in the contaminated areas will be outlined, which will be the basis to calculate the Chernobyl budget.

Moldova

Parliament Speaker Lucinschi Discusses Moscow Visit

AU0312151594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1955 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 1/12/1994—Today, a press conference on the Moldovan parliamentary delegation's visit to Moscow was held in Chisinau. Moldovan Speaker Petru Lucinschi stated that he felt a new attitude toward Moldova from the Russian officials. This was proven by their tackling the Dniester problem, 14th Army's withdrawal and the Ilascu group's release. Russian officials implied that the withdrawal agreement must be ratified, assuring that this will happen soon. In this context Lucinschi said that there are several technical problems which have to be discussed beforehand to adopt an efficient decision. Lucinschi called on reporters not to politicize this problem too much.

Referring to Russia's decision to reduce peace keeping forces unilaterally in Dniester, Lucinschi said that "their financial support is Russia's problem. We will discuss the situation after the Budapest reunion which might decide to create certain international peace keeping forces."

As to the Ilascu problem, Lucinschi said that the Russian officials displayed a human attitude toward this case and favored political detainees' release. The Russian side raised the problem of double citizenship but the Moldovan deputies said that in Moldova's current situation it would be unwelcome since some people would like to have Ukrainian, Romanian, Turkish or other citizenship thus leading to new tensions.

Lucinschi said that at the Russian Foreign Ministry, allusions were made regarding the recent statements by Deputy Speaker Nicolae Andronic who demanded that the 14th Army's withdrawal be monitored. "I am afraid that our persistence will lead to harsh reactions from Russia but Moscow has to understand that a delay would create new categorical statements in Chisinau," Lucinschi said.

Simion Certan, of the Peasants and Intellectuals Block, member of the delegation, said that many asked about the Russians' situation in Moldova, and the Moldovan parliamentarians raised the problem of over 400,000 Moldovans who work or live in Russia. Certan said that some claims are related to the situation faced by Moldova two years ago. In his opinion, this is due to information lacks. Vlad Cubreacov, of the Christian Democratic Popular Front Alliance, expressed his dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Ilascu case was discussed. He said that some Russian officials treated it as a minor thing. Cubreacov said that he was disappointed by the fact that the meetings with the Moldovans living in Russia were excluded from their agenda.

Pleased With Moscow Visit Results

AU0212133994 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1737 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 1/12/1994—The Moldovan parliamentary delegation is satisfied with the results of its visit to Moscow, delegation leader Petru Lucinschi, the Parliament Speaker, said. He pointed out at today's news conference that the delegation included representatives of all parliamentary factions, who had a possibility to discuss any problems they considered essential.

The meetings the Moldovans had in both chambers of the Russian Parliament, in ministries, and state departments were dedicated to the settlement of the Dniester conflict, the presence of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in the region, and the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army, the way Russian-speaking people feel in Moldova, the release of Ilie Ilascu, the ratification of the treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries, and the further development of bilateral relations.

"We have reached mutual understanding on all the issues, which shows that all problems are solvable, with only time and regular contacts needed for this. We have been convinced that the Russian Federation feels no more suspiciousness towards Moldova," Lucinschi stressed.

The sides discussed the question of possible granting dual citizenship to residents in both Moldova and Russia. "We were against the dualism, because this contradicts to our legislation. Besides, if Moldovan residents become also citizens of Russia, Ukraine, Romania, or Bulgaria, this will not promote the strengthening the republic's statehood," Lucinschi explained.

The delegation informed their Russian colleagues that Moldova observed the rights of national minorities, including those of the ethnic Russians. "During the past several decades, Russians have always represented about

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12.5 percent of republic's population. And the fact that the figure has remained stable during the recent years may serve as proof that their rights are observed. If there is a certain outflow of Russians, it is only from the Dniester region," he said.

CSCE Looked to for Help in Controlling 14th Army

LD0212205694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1708 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur expressed hope that the CSCE and its permanent mission in the republic would facilitate establishing international control over withdrawal of the 14th Russian army from the republic. In the course of his meeting with head of the CSCE permanent mission to Moldova Philip Hahn Snegur underlined that it is necessary to establish international control over implementation of the agreement on troops withdrawal "in order to prevent falling of the 14th army's military equipment into hands of destructive forces."

According to the presidential press service, Snegur highly appreciated the CSCE mission's contribution in peace settlement of the conflict in Moldova's eastern regions.

Philip Hahn expressed readiness of the mission to take responsibility for establishing control in the case that the upcoming summit of the CSCE heads of states in Budapest adopts decision to support Moldova on this issue.

Socialist, Communists Intend To Set Up Electoral Bloc

AU0312152494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1955 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 1/12/1994—At the future local elections, the Socialist Party (PS) intends to form an electoral bloc with the Moldovan Communist Party (PCM). This intention has been already made public by the leaders of these political parties. Valeriu Senic, PS co-chairman, told BASAPRESS that the PS does not support CP's proposal to boycott the elections if the Law on Local Elections is adopted in the present variant. At the same time, Senic said that the Socialists consider the Agrarian Democratic Party and the Communists allies. The Socialists "count on the Agrarians" support and understanding to modify the law in question." Referring to the consultations he had with the Socialist Democratic Party, Senic said that "the right-wing forces could merge with other political parties, though in the case of the Social-Democrats there are still some divergences regarding the attitude toward the ethnic minorities and private ownership."

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Kazakhstan

Supreme Council Speaker Ends Visit to Iran, Pakistan

LD0112154094 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0900 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The official visit of Abish Kekilbayev, chairman of the Supreme Council, to Iran and Pakistan ended yesterday. During the visit, he met the Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. During the talks in Iran, Kekilbayev noted the importance of cooperation between Tehran and Almaty within the framework of the economic cooperation organization and the Caspian Sea states cooperation organization. As a result of the visit, an agreement on bilateral cooperation between Kazakhstan and Iran's parliaments was signed.

The official visit by the Kazakh delegation led by Abish Kekilbayev to Pakistan was received by President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and National Assembly Speaker Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani. An agreement on cooperation and exchange of information between the two parliaments was signed by the two speakers. Kekilbayev attended the opening ceremony of the Kazakhstan embassy in Islamabad. The delegation familiarized themselves with the economic, social, and cultural life of Iran and Pakistan, and visited historical sights.

Western Consortium Mines Kazakh Gold, Diamonds

LD0312161794 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0700 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A consortium of western companies has discovered about 300 deposits of gold and jewelry-grade diamonds. This is a result of almost three years of geological prospecting in the republic. These new deposits have yielded gold worth $8 million this year alone.

A decision was made to establish a big gold and diamond processing industry in Kazakhstan. With this aim in mind the Altyntas joint venture was set up not long ago. It was granted permission to search for and process gold and diamonds in the Republic. The cofounders of the new company are, on the one hand, the Kazakh Government, and on the other hand, the abovementioned consortium of western private companies. This was said in London by Dennis Buchannan, president of Altyntas, professor of mineralogy, and British citizen. Our company has been given permission to mine and process precious metals and stones, first of all gold and diamonds over an area of 56,000 square km at the upper end of the Balkhash lake.

The Australian and British corporations which are members of the consortium have been carrying out geological prospecting in the area for the previous three years. Kazakhstan is rich in areas with gold ore both in veins and scattered. Near the village of Aksakal we are building a large up-to-date affinage plant which will allow us to process Kazakh gold locally. This means raw materials will not be sent to Russia any more. Curently, the consortium is working on 14 gold veins and scattered gold mines. Setting up the joint venture means laying a foundation for the Kazakh gold and diamond industry and gives this big and much needed project the possibility of receiving appropriate governmental support. The participants in the project expect to mine up to 100 tonnes of gold in the future. The largest Swiss banks are directly connected with the project.

Oil Minister on Complex Development Program

LD0212161594 Almaty PANORAMA in Russian 26 Nov 94 p 2

[Interview with Nurlan Balgimbayev, oil and gas industry minister, by unidentified PANORAMA correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [PANORAMA] Mr. Balgimbayev, how realistic is your forecast that Kazakhstan will extract 26.8 million tonnes of oil in 1995 and 45 million a year by 2000?

[Balgimbayev] A few days ago at the cabinet of ministers, we defended the Kazakhstan oil and gas complex development program, in line with which we intend to raise oil extraction next year by our own efforts to 16.7 million tonnes (15.8 at present). The state holding company is planning to extract 3.8 million tonnes and joint ventures—6.3 million. As a whole for Kazakhstan we will receive the volume you mentioned—26.8 million tonnes of oil. By the year 2000, we plan to produce about 45 million tonnes of hydrocarbons.

Thus over a short period of time we will practically double the volumes of extraction mainly due to an increase in output by joint ventures and at the Karachaganak deposit. For comparison, I can present the following figures—Kazakhstan extracted 18.5 million tonnes of oil in 1993 and 16.8 million in 1994. During the last few years, the Kazakh oil industry has not received the funds it needs to maintain and develop itself. Meanwhile by directive solutions petroleum products have been distributed free either to industry or to agriculture for sowing or harvesting...

During the defense of our program, we asked the government to permit enterprises to market 30 percent of the oil extracted themselves in order to stabilize and boost hydrocarbon extraction. We proved it was possible using statistics. The government agreed with our arguments.

Therefore in 1995 we envisage extracting an additional 840,000 tonnes of oil some of which will be exported. Taking into account the export of 30 percent of oil extracted at existing deposits foreign currency receipts are expected to be worth $217 million. Part of the money

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will be used for putting into operation new deposits and the intensification of extraction at main deposits, the purchase of equipment, the capital repair of bore-holes and so on, part will be kept for investment and priority programs. The state will receive about $220 million.

[PANORAMA] Which oil and gas industry sites is it planned to develop first and foremost?

[Balgimbayev] The program includes several priority projects. One of them is the construction of the Mangystau oil refinery. A technical and economic feasibility study is already ready. A consortium of three Japanese firms—Mitsui, Mitsubishi, and Toyo—has started work on this. The Japanese export and import bank has agreed to finance the project. A lot of work on preparing the infrastructure has been done—roads, water supplies, and electrical transmission lines are already in place.

The next object is the Uzen deposit, the largest one on the oil and gas ministry's books. We lose around one million tonnes of oil a year because of the lack of investments for reconstruction. Now we have the opportunity to stabilize extraction and bring it to 7.5 million tonnes per year. The World Bank has drawn up a feasibility study for its Uzen deposit reconstruction and it will cost $1.3 billion. The deposit has been divided into 12 zones. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is the first to undertake to invest in the repair of bore-holes and replacing old oil pipes and water lines in two of the zones. We have proposals from four to five Canadian, German, and Turkish companies who want to participate. We will probably give them several zones. Last week, we signed a protocol of intentions with Rosneft of the Russian Fuel Ministry. They will work at Uzen too. In 1995, the Russians are going to repair 400 bore-holes and then another 600. Agreements with British Gas, Agip, and Russia on developing Karachaganak are on the way. By rights, Karachaganak can be called the largest deposit. Remaining reserves of liquid hydrocarbons here is about 800 million tonnes.

The Zhanazhol gas processing plant, Aktyubinsk Region, was constructed and equipped at one time by individual projects. But unfortunately it is very small and its capacity is not sufficient for the region's extraction possibilities. Therefore we held talks with the Canadian SNC Lavalin company and evidently in 1995 we will begin the construction of a new plant.

Apart from this the program includes the reconstruction of the Atyrau oil refinery. This will enable us to increase the volume of refining by an additional one million tonnes of oil, that is bring it up to six million and produce an additional 1.9 million tonnes of light petroleum products annually.

The next site which has been listed among the priority ones, is the Chimkent oil refinery, where we are planning to build a catalytic cracking installation. This will give us the opportunity to improve ecology and receive an additional one million tonnes of light petroleum products from the same volume of oil by raising the level of processing.

The west Kazakhstan-Kumkol oil pipeline is included in the program. Constructing it will allow us to deliver our own oil to refineries in Pavlodar and Chimkent. And the last project is the construction of a small plant to produce liquefied gas at the Kumkol deposit in Kyzyl-Orda Region. The plant will supply gas to Kyzyl-Orda, Zhezkazgan, and partially South Kazakhstan regions. (Today Kazakhstan buys 400,000 tonnes of liquefied gas.)

[PANORAMA] Is it possible to implement the program without foreign investments?

[Balgimbayev] We will not improve the sites without them. We need $6.6 billion to implement this program. Kazakhstan does not have the money. Nevertheless practically all financial questions are being resolved. Talks with investors on these issues are under way. But the lack of a oil law is a serious obstacle. Its draft has been considered by the parliament's coordinating council and included on the session agenda. If the law is adopted the flow of capital into Kazakhstan's oil and gas industry will grow considerably.

[PANORAMA] The flow of investments is probably being restrained by unsolved problems in the transportation network? At present, what stage is the project for the Caspian pipeline consortium?

[Balgimbayev] While there are no transportation routes not a single investor will put his money in our projects. Kazakhstan badly needs a pipeline to Novorossiysk. Unfortunately, the founder countries of the Caspian pipeline consortium have not reached an agreement on the terms for Chevron's participation in the Caspian pipeline consortium. Russia and Oman do not accept Chevron's proposals. However there have been some positive developments after the series of meetings between Chevron's chairman of the board, Mr. Derr, and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, as well as, between the Kazakh and Russian prime ministers. I think that 1995 will be crucial for the pipeline. I believe that construction will start in 1995.

[PANORMAMA] What are the prospects for oil exports?

[Balgimbayev] At present, the pipe from western Kazakhstan to Samara carries 10 million tonnes of oil. There are several ways to increase the volume. In particular, we worked out the following scheme—if the proportion of Tengiz oil in this pipe is raised (taking into account that its viscosity is lower and quality higher) the volume could be increased to 13.5 million tonnes (10 million plus 3.5 million) without any reconstruction. This is the first thing we are working on. We hope that this idea will be implemented this year. The next thing is what will help raise export volumes. So far we did not count Aktyubinsk oil, which we deliver to the Orsk refinery.

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The Russians did not include it in barter. You see that it is 2.6 million tonnes a year. Finally last week we agreed and signed a document with Rosneft, in which they agreed to include 1,600,000 tonnes in payments on oil exchange with the Russian Federation. As a result a further 1.6 million tonnes will be released. Another way is via water. Our representatives in Tehran are working on supplies of over one million tonnes of oil to Iran by tanker. We are holding talks with the Russians on oil transportation via the Volga and Don rivers to the Black Sea. By this we can increase exports by about one million tonnes. We are working on possible railway transportation as well.

Pricing Committee Moves To Reduce Industry Gas Prices

LD0312085794 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The state committee on pricing and antimonopoly policy has taken a number of measures to reduce the level of gas prices for industry.

In particular the methodologically wrong procedure of setting the gas price for the Kazakh gas state holding company is abandoned. Expenditure on buying and transporting gas had been corrected but its wholesale price was still high for industry.

Industry owes 60 million tenge for Uzbek gas alone. The government has recognized this debt as a state debt. This has permitted the price of gas to be cut by 25 percent.

In accordance with a resolution of the state committee on pricing and antimonopoly policy from 15 November, fuel gas will receive gas from the Kazakhgaz state holding company for 2,937 tenge per 1,000 cubic meters while the Mangyshlak energy group of enterprises will receive it for 2,156 tenge not including VAT.

The antimonopoly committee has recommended that heads of regional and city administrations use the money received because of price differences to reduce the present starting price of natural gas for industry.

Kyrgyzstan

Dzhumagulov's Japan Visit Paves Way for Economic Ties

LD0312113994 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0700 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Kyrgyz Government delegation, led by Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov, has returned from Japan. During the official visit to Tokyo a number of important documents were signed, which will undoubtedly contribute to the establishment of economic and cultural ties between Kyrgyzstan and Japan.

In the next few days the Kyrgyz delegation, led by Dzhumagulov, will leave for another foreign trip. On 6-7 December a consultative meeting will be held in Paris. Following that, the head of the government will participate in an Islamic Conference Organization meeting, which will discuss important issues for Kyrgyzstan such as the possibilities for cooperation in hydropower potential and training power engineering specialists.

Uzbekistan Cuts Off Gas Supplies

LD0312191194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Uzbekistan cut off the supplies of natural gas to Kyrgyzstan Saturday [3 December] due to Bishkek's unpaid debt for previous supplies. The Osh district located in the south of the republic was the first to experience the lack of gas.

In an interview with Interfax, Kyrgyz Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov confirmed that the republic's debt to Uzbekistan reached nearly eight million dollars. Moreover, Tashkent insists on repaying the debt only in hard currency.

According to Dzhumagulov, he plans to hold direct talks with his Uzbek counterpart over the telephone Saturday to find ways to solve the gas crisis.

Dzhumagulov pointed out that Kyrgyzstan could have paid for gas, if it had promptly received more than $55 million for electricity delivered to Kazakhstan.

Dzhumagulov said that the people will mainly affect homes as industrial enterprises and heat distribution stations were supplied with coal and fuel oil until next spring.

Official Plays Down Uranium Waste Threat

LD0212180794 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] I remember an illustration from an old book: A fire-breathing dragon has its tail coiled round a beautiful maiden, while a brave hero fights the monster to save the maiden's life and honor. Such tales clearly reflect people's fear of terrible natural calamities such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and floods. Even at the end of the 20th century mankind cannot find effective protection against natural catastrophes.

Yet because he regarded himself as the owner of planet earth, man has done quite a few things which now make him anxious. Nature conservation has become a matter of global importance, because as people encroach on the innermost sanctuaries of nature, people come up against the problem of their own safety.

Mining waste storage—the waste from processing uranium and other ores. Today this causes fear and alarm. In the past one could not speak and write about it—it was a strict state secret. Now it is a major subject of media reports. Secrets become open, and they scare people. There are 23 waste storage sites in the vicinity of

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the town of Mayluu-Suu. Some press publications have just about declared the town a disaster area.

In June last year the Kyrgyz Government put these and other obsolete waste storage sites, as well as mining dumps used by the former Soviet ministries of medium-scale engineering and of nonferrous metals, under the control of the state concern Kyrgyzaltyn [Kyrgyz gold]. Our correspondent has had a meeting with Syrymbet Momunaliyev, the head of this concern's department for protection of labor and ecology.

[Unidentified correspondent] Syrymbet Momunaliyevich, there were quite a lot of "post-boxes" in our republic. What did you inherit?

[Momunaliyev] I should say straight off that our state concern was established with one aim: To ensure development of the gold mining industry in Kyrgyzstan. We have nothing whatsoever to do with Mayluu-Suu or Kadzhi-Say. However, the issue of waste storage cannot be left unsupervised. In any case, these sites were left alone with no one in charge of them for quite some time. The government thought the concern possessed the personnel and financial potential needed to take waste storage under its control.

Apart from the ones at Mayluu-Suu, the ministry of medium-scale machine-building left behind nine uranium mine dumps in the village of Shekaftar in Chatkal district, and a waste storage site at a uranium mine in the village of Kadzhi-Say.

The "legacy" from the ministry of nonferrous metals consists of three waste storage sites in the village of Sumsar in Chatkal district. They contain lead and zinc waste. They have not been capped and are in an emergency condition. There is a similar waste site in the village of Kan, 70 km from Kadamzhay. The land has not been reclaimed and its surface is turning into dust.

As you can see, we have much work to do.

[Correspondent] What do you plan to do first?

[Momunaliyev] Let us begin with Mayluu-Suu. The uranium deposit there was worked by the former [Soviet] Western Mining Chemical Industrial Complex between 1946 and 1967. Then the industrial complex was broken up and its industrial establishments—a waste storage site and mining dumps—turned over to the Leninabad mining chemical company in Tajikistan.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, specialists from Tajikistan stopped their technical monitoring of the existing water engineering installations, so that drainage channels became obstructed and the foundations of dikes were washed away. In addition, the town authorities allowed builders to take sand from water meadows near the Ailyampa-Say river. The level of the river dropped so that the river course became dangerously close to the waste storage site.

[Correspondent] This was obviously what alarmed the town's inhabitants.

[Momunaliyev] Also, specialists as well. Especially after the landslides that took place this spring. A conference of officials from the state committees for conservation in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan held in June 1994 noted that the ecological situation in Mayluu-Suu and surrounding territory was such that there was a danger that the waste storage site and dumps of untreated uranium ores could be seriously damaged, and was thus cause for serious concern.

[Correspondent] Especially as there could be more landslides.

[Momunaliyev] It would be good if a landslide would cover over the waste. But it would be bad if the landslide swept it into a river. This is what we cannot allow on any account. We therefore took the technical measures that were needed in the most dangerous areas. The Kyrgyzaltyn concern allocated 1.5 million soms out of its budget to cover the cost of these measures.

[Correspondent] What has been done so far?

[Momunaliyev] The banks of waste storage sites No. 2, No. 4, and No. 18 have been reinforced. Clearance of gutters and drainage ditches at nine other waste storage sites has been completed. Dikes are being built up where needed. The first stage of the rehabilitation work will be completed by the end of this year.

[Correspondent] The waste sites are said to be a radioactive danger, too?

[Momunaliyev] This allegation in no way accords with reality. Using data from the inspections, which are constantly carried out by the sanitary services, Kyrgyz and Uzbek specialists have come to the firm conclusion that there is no trace of radioactive contamination beyond the boundaries of the waste sites and dumps. This indicates that they are currently in a satisfactory condition.

In accordance with the sanitary standards, radioactivity should not be higher than 40 microroentgen an hour. The measurements taken in Mayluu-Suu showed that the level of radioactivity there is between nine and 20 microroentgen per hour.

[Correspondent] Yet in some places on the waste storage site radioactivity has reached 360 microroentgen per hour.

[Momunaliyev] But covering the surface with soil was enough to bring the level of radioactivity down to the 40 to 20 mark. The waste storage site is regarded as a danger zone, anyway. Warning signs have been put up and the territory fenced off with barbed wire. But you know, the local inhabitants not only go to and fro, but have even removed some of the fences. It seems that they are not afraid of the devil himself!

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[Correspondent] I would have thought people would keep a mile away from such places.

[Momunaliyev] That is what we believed, too. Yet there they were making paths and grazing their cattle. For instance, in Kadzhi-Say they started digging around in the waste storage sites. They were looking for nonferrous metals and bits of machinery, and, you know, all of that really was contaminated. It is true that the rush has eased off now, probably because they took everything they wanted.

[Correspondent] Why were they not afraid?

[Momunaliyev] The explanation was simple: One has to make a living somehow. The factory in which they work did not pay salaries for months, so they had no choice but to do "business." They took away some of what they dug up and sold them. But it seems to me that we have touched on a problem that other organizations, above all the law enforcement agencies, should deal with.

[Correspondent] Syrymbet Momunaliyevich, does the republic have enough funds to carry out all the planned measures?

[Momunaliyev] A centralized ecological fund was recently set up under the state concern Kyrgyzaltyn by a government resolution. The mining enterprises that entered into the concern will transfer monies equivalent to one percent of the cost of their main output to this fund.

In particular, we will use this to cover the operating costs of a group of four or five people assigned the job of monitoring the technical position and gamma-ray background radiation at the Mayluu-Suu sites. We will carry out research and many other measures.

The government has suggested that the State Committee for Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the State Commission for Emergency Situations, and the Committee for Civil Defense should annually transfer part of our shortfall to our state concern. That would be good, but we know everyone needs money.

We are concerned about the Tuyuk-Suu waste dump, which is situated in an area subject to flooding near Min-Kush. It could be washed away during a flood, and so it needs to be transferred to another safer place. This project was included in the international TACIS-93 program, and the Uranertz international center was given $93,000 to carry out survey work.

In addition, Russia's Ministry of Nuclear Power Engineering has granted 50 million rubles to a scientific research institute to carry work on an assessment of the potential danger in a waste storage site located near the town of Mayluu-Suu.

Uzbek specialists are also conducting studies on this problem. The government of this neighboring republic is well aware that the Ferghana Valley and the mountains that surround it constitute a single region in ecological terms, so that we should make joint efforts to achieve common goals.

[Correspondent] Your words have reassured me to some extent. I hope Mayluu-Suu's residents will read this interview, too.

[Momunaliyev] I must repeat yet again: There is nothing for them to worry about. Nowadays many people want to make political capital out of ecological problems, and therefore they stir up passions. Not only here. Recently there have been many television reports on the sensation the Western press created over the so-called oil catastrophe in Tyumen region. But it turned out that there have been many such cases in the world, and the sensation was created for political and economic reasons.

Many politicians want to be the chief protectors of the people. Therefore, in such cases they do not show any interest in the opinions of authoritative experts, because their opinions may not coincide with those of the politicians.

[Correspondent] But you know, the public concern is understandable, especially after the Chernobyl disaster.

[Momunaliyev] OK, but in Armenia the conservationists insisted that the atomic power station should be closed down, so the republic was left without heating or lighting. Sure, you need to observe all the precautions. But if we had followed the logic of our opponents we would have had to impose a ban on cars—so many people die in car accidents!

[Correspondent] Are you not voicing the interests of your office when saying that?

[Momunaliyev] I think I have some right to speak like that. I worked in the uranium industry for 36 years. Of those 36 years I worked underground for 18, as the head of a uranium-mining sector in Min-Kush. So I was much better acquainted with radioactivity than many of our conservationists.

You know, a lot of it depends on the man himself, on his standards and on leading a normal way of life. I am 62 but as you can see, I am healthy, I have got all my own teeth, my hair is still black, and all other bits are fully functioning.

You have to take account of the real situation. No one is brushing people's interests aside. The government of the republic, our concern and other authoritative organizations are above all concerned to prevent the uranium "legacy" from becoming a calamity.

There is no point in boasting about living next to waste sites, but scaring people isn't much good, either.

Tajikistan

President Leaves for Budapest CSCE Conference

LD0312113094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1007 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov left for Budapest today, where for the first time as

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Tajik president, he will take part in the conference of the heads of CSCE member states, which will discuss priority areas and guide lines for strengthening CSCE cooperation. Rakhmanov, Jamshed Karimov, the first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, Abdulmajid Dostiyev, the deputy chairmen of the Supreme Council, Khozidavlat Khoimdodov, Khujaahmad Khidiraliyev, and the head of the presidential administration, Talbak Nazarov, saw Rakhmanov off at the Dushanbe airport.

Rakhmanov Interview: Election 'Landmark Event'

LD0112204294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 1 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin: "President Emomali Rakhmanov gave Interfax an exclusive interview"—INTERFAX headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] INTERFAX: The November 6 voting showed that most Tajiks supported your politics of the last two years. Will the country's leaders continue on the same course?

RAKHMANOV: They will. On November 6 the Tajik people for the first time adopted a Constitution and elected a president in a popular vote. The high turnout was a major achievement of democracy in the republic. It was a landmark event. The voting result and the high turnout showed that the people are sick and tired of the strife between the regions, of mutual accusations that are kept alive by certain people for their own benefit.

I am convinced that the time is right for the people to be united under the banners of peace and friendship, creative work and improving life. For obvious reasons we could not concentrate on economic revival. Now the time for this has come.

We will continue on the course for a market economy. It would be a destructive error to destroy the existing economic system before a market economy is in place. The political stability made possible by the elections and referendum compels us to accelerate the economic reform because without drastic changes in the entire system of economic management we cannot pull out of the worst kind of crisis the country is engulfed in. Because much time has been wasted, we must carry out the reform fast in all the spheres of economic life. In my electoral platform I outlined the reform and will do my best to carry them through for the best of the Tajik people.

Q.: Some Russian and western experts believe that the elections may result in worse political instability and a new round of power struggle. Do you share these fears?

A.: I think they are groundless. Neither the central election commission nor the independent observers nor foreign observers nor UN officials detected any violations that could affect the voting results. They found that the Tajik elections were conducted in strict compliance with the law, freely and largely democratically.

Q.: How will the results of the November 6 voting influence the talks with the opposition? Do the official authorities have to amend their approaches to talks with hard-line opposition which boycotted the elections and the constitutional referendum? Are you prepared to compromise with it, in particular in legalizing the political parties and movements that were banned in 1993 and in inviting the opposition to the new government?

A.: The voting results will have a most positive effect on the negotiating process. We will continue a peaceful dialog with the opposition with a view to achieving a national reconciliation. I don't think that there is an alternative to this policy. This was the reason why we sat at the table and will continue the dialog. The negotiators on both sides must understand that nobody but the Tajiks themselves will take them out of the today's situation. I believe that we will agree, sooner or later, on mutually acceptable decisions on most important issues.

Politics is the art of compromise. Legalization of political parties and movements banned in 1993 is up to the country's Supreme Court. Because the events were extraordinary we do not rule out the possibility of compromise in this field too. Compromises are also possible in the participation of the opposition in the government. However, the opposition has come up with no constructive ideas on this issue.

Q.: What will your criteria be in forming a new cabinet? Will you allow for the potential of the country's parts, in particular the results of the voting in the Leninabad Region and the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region which largely supported your rival Abdumalik Abdullojanov?

A.: Professionalism and responsibility rather than the origin will be the sole criteria. I think that the entire republic will be represented. In my view, we have enough professionals.

Q.: Is it possible that you will invite Abdullojanov to take an official position in your administration?

A.: It is and Abdullojanov's own view will be recognized.

Q.: Can one predict a significant change of the government?

A.: The Tajik economy is in such a shape that what we need is an efficient enlightened government which would restore reasonable manageability of the economy. In this sense the government will change. We intend to appoint government representatives in the regions, cities and districts. Large state-owned factories will be managed directly from the center. IF Note: The new government must be approved by the 21st session of the Tajik Supreme Soviet which resumed its session after a two week recess Thursday. The previous government resigned on November 29.

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The Presidential Bulletin will complete the publication of the Tajik leader's interview on December 2.

Rakhmanov Concludes Interview

LD0212213394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 2 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We conclude publication of President Emomali Rakhmonov's exclusive interview with Interfax.

Q.: Does your election success inspire a hope for closer ties with Russia, monetary integration included?

A.: There are thousands of links uniting us with Russia economically and culturally, and we are simply duty bound to expand our relations with Russia and make them more vigorous. Russia's economic, and military-strategic interests in our region enable the Russian Federation to play the key role both in resolving the conflict in Tajikistan and in advancing our economy. We have taken that for granted, and for this reason have been trying to maintain closest possible contacts with Russia in all fields.

Judge for yourself, our republic's industries depend on Russian raw materials and components for 80 percent, all our communication lines cross Russia. Possessing a huge potential, Russia—a great power—can become the guarantor of security in our region. Thanks to the Russian Federation and its efforts, there is relative stability throughout Central Asia today.

As an advocate of gradual monetary integration with Russia, I will continue to do my best so that Tajikistan could join the ruble zone. We will do all we can to create a single economic and cultural environment and combine news media. I have promised that to the peoples of Tajikistan, and I will spare no effort to positively resolve this issue.

Q.: Do you think the prospect of Tajikistan to join a union of the CIS Central Asian states is real? How near the views of the CIS leaders advocating greater CIS integration and its transformation into a new entity of a confederative type are to your perceptions?

A.: The question of our entry in a Central Asian alliance has not been on the agenda so far. But I have kept on saying that Tajikistan is ready to cooperate with all states on the basis of the universally accepted norms and principles.

Taking this opportunity, I want to stress that Tajikistan cooperates with other states along the lines other than ethnic origin or religion; its focus will be on economic ties, the application of high technology in industry and agriculture, energy saving technologies included. It seems to me that we should move towards close integration within the Commonwealth, toward creating a common economic organism. That's the only constructive beginning that I can see. We should restore and promote cooperation with all CIS republics, above all Russia, Uzbekistan, and Central Asian republics. The faster we integrate, the better off we are. I hope that we, CIS member-countries, will achieve a higher integration level and will become more united. We should pursue this goal step by step, each doing his best. Incidentally, I think a joint and noticeable step has already been taken—the Interstate Economic Committee and Payment Union have been set up.

Supreme Council Concludes Session

LD0212200694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 21st session of the Tajik Supreme Council of the 12th convocation has completed its work [on 1 December] [passage omitted]

President of the Republic Emomali Rakhmanov made a speech on the draft resolution of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan on the government's structure. The people's deputies approved the resolution of the republic's Supreme Council on this issue. Likewise, a number of other decrees by the Supreme Council presidium of the Republic of Tajikistan were approved.

In connection with his retirement, Sharof Mahmudov, the chairman of the republic's Supreme Court, was relieved from his position. Ubaydullo Davlatov, who previously worked as the chairman of the republic's Arbitration Court was appointed to this post.

Two other issues—fixing the date of the elections and appointing the Central Electoral Commission—were included on the session agenda. The people's deputies approved the resolution of the Supreme Council on holding elections of people's representatives to the Supreme Assembly and local councils on 26 February 1995. Likewise Kholmurod Sharipov was appointed chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. The people's deputies approved the members of the new Central Electoral Commission.

At the end of the session's work, the president of the republic made a speech and stressed that despite economic and political difficulties the people's deputies had worked fruitfully during their five years of activities. They made a worthy contribution to the unity of the Republic and ending the fratricidal war.

Rakhmanov Edict on Campaign Against Illegal Arms

LD0412152994 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to implement the requirements of the new Constitution of the Republic of

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Tajikistan, which guarantees human and civil rights and freedoms, to consolidate legality and law and order, and to guarantee further stabilization of public life on this basis, Emomali Rakhmanov, president of the Republic of Tajikistan, has decreed that:

1. The Tajik Interior Ministry shall disarm illegal armed groups and confiscate illegally-held firearms, ammunition, and military equipment from citizens which they have not handed in voluntarily.

2. The Tajik Interior and Security Ministries shall take the steps needed to discover illegally-held weapons, ammunition, military equipment, and kit, and shall confiscate them by force. In carrying out these measures, they may use special means and firearms without warning, in accordance with the law. Armed groups and citizens who do not voluntarily surrender firearms, ammunition, or military equipment shall be subject to criminal prosecution.

A republican commission to monitor the confiscation of firearms, ammunition, and military equipment shall be set up with the attached composition of posts. [list not provided]

The chairmen of regional, town, and district councils of people's deputies shall set up analogous commissions for executing this decree by 5 December 1994.

Heads of law-enforcement bodies and other officials who fail to take measures to organize disarmament, voluntary surrender, and confiscation of weapons, or who sabotage the implementation of this decree, shall be relieved of their posts, dismissed from the internal affairs and security bodies, and made strictly accountable in line with the legislation operating in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Security Ministry of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Customs Committee under the Tajik Government shall tighten up controls in order to stop the illegal importing and exporting of firearms, ammunition, and military equipment and kit across the state and customs frontiers of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Security, Defense, and Interior Ministries of the Republic of Tajikistan shall put in order the regulations for keeping inventories on service weapons, military equipment, and ammunition and for carrying and storing them no later than 5 December 1994.

People will be forbidden to appear armed with weapons in public places—in stadiums, parks, cinemas, streets, squares, and so on—or at public festivals and ceremonial and religious events and rituals, except for cases covered by the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The president of the Republic of Tajikistan and the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan shall be guarded by appropriate units of the Tajik Security Ministry. The Tajik Security Ministry shall remove the bodyguards of officials in the state bodies of the Republic where this is not envisaged in Section 1 of the current article.

The Tajik Ministry of Culture and Information and other sections of the mass media shall explain to the population the need to voluntarily hand in firearms, ammunition, and military equipment and kit, and shall highlight the work of the law-enforcement agencies in implementing the requirements of this decree.

The prosecutor general of the Republic of Tajikistan shall ensure supervision over the legality of the measures implemented in line with this decree.

The Interior and Security Ministries of the Republic of Tajikistan shall submit a daily report at 0800 to the republican commission monitoring the confiscation of firearms, ammunition, and military equipment on the measures being carried out in line with this present decree.

The republican commission monitoring the confiscation of firearms, ammunition, and military equipment shall submit a report once every 10 days to the president of the Republic of Tajikistan on the work which has been done.

This decree will take effect on the day of publication.

Production Association Formed With Uzbekistan

LD0212150794 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aim of developing the Republic's construction industry and agro-industrial complex and of consolidating mutually beneficial economic cooperation with enterprises and organizations of Uzbekistan, the Tajik Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution on creating the transnational production economic association Soyuz [Union]. The initiative of the international scientific production commercial corporation Istravshan on creating the joint Tajik-Uzbek transnational production economic association Soyuz has been approved. The Finance Ministry has been instructed to register the joint Tajik-Uzbek transnational production economic association in accordance with established procedure.

Afghan Border Guards Meet on Tajik-Afghan Border

LD0412163994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Representatives of Russian and Afghan border guards met in the populated center of Nizhny Pyanj (300 km to the south of Dushanbe) on the Tajik-Afghan border on December 2.

Russian and Afghan border guards discussed stabilization of the situation on the border and exchange of information, a well-informed source close to military officials told Interfax.

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The same source said this was the first meeting of border guards on the initiative of the Afghan Foreign Ministry.

Border guards of the two countries agreed that incidents on the border must be resolved by peaceful means.

The same source said the parties had decided to hold several more similar meetings on the Tajik-Afghan border and on the neighboring Afghan territory.

Opposition Leader on Better Control Over Border Cease-Fire

LD0412183694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leader of the Council of the opposition Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan Sayid Abdullo Nuri urged U.N. Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to enhance control over the implementation of the agreement on ceasefire and on the termination of other hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border.

He circulated an appeal to Butrus-Ghali's personal envoy Ramiro Piris-Ballion, who is in charge of the Tajik settlement, which urges Butrus-Ghali to publish all instances of violating the agreement, whose number, to quote Nuri, is growing daily.

He writes, among other things, that the Russian border guards in Tajikistan have been increasing the number of punitive actions against opposition units which have terminated military operations. These actions, writes Nuri, are aimed at securing additional allocations by destabilizing the situation in Tajikistan, and entangling Russia into a military conflict with the Tajik opposition.

"If the punitive actions of the so-called collective peacekeeping forces and the Russian border troops are not stopped, and if the United Nations does not provide solid guarantees of control over the implementation of the ceasefire agreement, the Tajik opposition will have to take adequate measures," stated Nuri.

Turkmenistan

EBRD Gives $35 Million To Support Enterprise

LD0112205694 Ashgabat TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 25 Nov 94 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 24 November (by TURKMEN PRESS correspondent Oleg Lukin) [dateline as published]—The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] will allocate a credit of $35 million to Turkmenistan to support enterprise. An agreement on this was signed in the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan today. The funds will be channeled to finance specific investment projects of Turkmen businessmen who are trying to set up their own production.

Experts from the EBRD, in conjunction with specialists from Senagat and Gazbank commercial banks and the Bank for Foreign Economic Activities of Turkmenistan, are expected to handle appraisals of projects proposed by Turkmen businessmen. Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Otchertsov noted in an interview with the TURKMEN PRESS agency today that the credits are not intended for commercial activities but to support investment projects aimed at producing goods, creating new jobs, and providing services. The credits will help a great number of businessmen in implementing their own ideas based on a sound economic foundation. In January experts from the European Bank will begin permanent work in Ashgabat, and in the first six months of 1995 the credit line will start working. Depending on the complexity and self-repayment possibilities of the projects, credits can be given for a term of up to 10 years with preferential interest rates.

(Stin Albrecht), director of an EBRD department, called today's agreement an act of trust in Turkmenistan, which is implementing market reforms. He stressed that Turkmenistan is now joining the world community ever more resolutely. (Albrecht) also noted that this is the first stage of long-term cooperation between the EBRD and Turkmen commercial and state structures. It is proposed to work out a number of other large credit projects in the future. They will be aimed, in particular, at modernizing the seaport in Turkmenbashy, constructing the Ashgabat-Mary highway, and developing telecommunications.

Niyazov Edict Tightens Control Over Foreign Firms

LD0212142094 Ashgabat TURKMENISTAN in Turkmen 29 Nov 94 p 1

[Edict by President Saparmurad Niyazov on measures to improve Turkmenistan's foreign economic activities; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aim of further increasing trade and economic cooperation with foreign countries, attracting foreign investments to Turkmenistan, and implementing a single foreign economic policy, I resolve the following:

1. The list of special goods (works and services) that require licenses for export and import proposed by the Turkmen president is approved (appendix no.1);

—The list of goods (works and services) that require licenses for export and import proposed by the Turkmen Cabinet of Ministers (appendix no.2) is approved;

—The regulations on the procedure for the state registration (see appendix) of enterprises involving foreign investments (establishments and organizations) and the branches and missions of foreign firms is approved.

2. The responsibility for registration of enterprises involving foreign investments (establishments and organizations) and branches and missions of foreign firms is placed on the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry.

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3. Enterprises involving foreign investments (establishments and organizations) or their separate enterprises and branches and missions of foreign firms that were previously registered on the territory of Turkmenistan are to be reregistered at the Turkmen Foreign Economic Relations Ministry by 15 January 1995;

—Such enterprises (establishments and organizations) will not pay a registration fee when reregistering.

4. It is established that as of 15 January 1995 Turkmen banks are to discontinue financial operations with the accounts of, and the State Customs Office of Turkmenistan is to halt the documentation of goods (products and raw materials) exported from and imported to Turkmenistan for, those enterprises with foreign investments and branches and missions of foreign firms that have not re-registered again at the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry of Turkmenistan.

5. The following should be noted:

Matters concerning the export by foreign enterprises and joint ventures of goods produced in Turkmenistan, as well as the import of products and goods for production purposes by such enterprises, lie within the competence of the Turkmen Foreign Economic Relations Ministry. Contracts drawn up by the ministry will be free of commission, and they are to be registered at the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan;

Foreign firms, joint ventures, and the missions and branches of foreign firms and their separate enterprises will report to the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry of Turkmenistan every three months about their economic and investment activities.

The Foreign Economic Relations Ministry of Turkmenistan has the right to halt the investment activities of foreign investors whose activities do not meet the requirements of Turkmen laws.

6. From the beginning of 1995 the State Committee for Statistics of Turkmenistan together with the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry is to work out and present every three months a statistical account of the economic activities of every organization, irrespective of the form of ownership, participating in the foreign economic activities of Turkmenistan.

The State Customs Office of Turkmenistan, the State Commodity and Raw materials Exchange of Turkmenistan, the Trade and Resources Ministry of Turkmenistan, and the Central Bank of Turkmenistan will report every month to the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry on export and import operations, including clearing operations, as well as report on the use of foreign credits.

7. The Foreign Economic Relations Ministry of Turkmenistan in conjunction with the Justice Ministry of Turkmenistan is to establish the procedure for foreign economic activities and in line with it work out and distribute normative acts to appropriate departments.

8. The Justice Ministry of Turkmenistan, in conjunction with the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, has a month in which to formulate proposals for amendments and addenda to Turkmen laws.

9. The Turkmen president's Resolutions No.1122 of 7 November 1993 on measures to regulate Turkmenistan's foreign economic activities, No.1624 of 18 December 1993 on regulation of foreign-trade barter (exchange of goods) operations, and No.1198 of 22 February 1993 on measures to regulate interstate deliveries and accounts are to be considered null and void.

[Signed] President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov

President Chairs Cabinet of Ministers Session

LD0412145194 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy chaired the Cabinet of Ministers session which was held yesterday.

The session discussed the questions to be examined when delagations from Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan arrive in Turkmenistan, especially the question of supplying these countries with Turkmen gas and settling their accounts concerning the natural gas.

At the session Saparmurad Turkmenbashy said: We have lived together with these countries. The countries that have become independent have economic difficulties. Therefore, it would be useful to consider their situation. Turkmenistan has always supported the idea of mutually beneficial relations. We are preapared to reach three-sided, and even four-sided, agreements. It is obvious that in the interests of only one or two countries there will be no actions against the interests of a third or fourth country. This could be regarded as a new trend in relations among states. To put it briefly, Turkmenistan wishes to strengthen mutually beneficial relations with the CIS countries.

The elections on 11 December will be an important event in the political life of the Government of Turkmenistan. On this day people will elect new deputies to the Assembly of Turkmenistan. Saparmurad Turkmenbashy reminded those attending the Cabinet of Ministers session that he would sign the edict on convening the session of the People's Supreme Soviet of Turkmenistan on 26 December. It was decided that the People's Supreme Soviet will examine duties and measures for strengthening the independence of Turkmenistan in 1995, development of the economy, and improvement of the living standard.

Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy pointed out that it is necessary to learn about the people's opinions and requests on the questions to be examined before the session of the

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People's Supreme Soviet. He instructed the secretariat to organize people to write in about their wishes and proposals on this issue for submission to the People's Supreme Soviet later. [passage omitted]

Turkmenbashy said: Television, radio, and the press are not taking full advantage of their facilities. It has been noticed that television work is not serious. Programs are not interesting, and there are too many programs which are similar and repeat each other. For this reason they do not satisfy people.

Saparmurad Turkmenbashy harshly criticized the old-fashioned style of the work of television, radio, and the state news agency. [passage omitted]

New Natural Gas Reserves Found in Ashgabat

LD0312085094 Ashgabat ASHGABAT AGSAMY in Turkmen 18 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The prospects for gas reserves continue. The Turkmen geophysics administration of the Turkmen Oil and Gas Ministry has discovered four new gas deposits in Ashgabat district.

"According to the data from administration experts a further 14 billion cubic meters of natural gas will be available for extraction this year for the economic needs of our country if the drilling works are completed at the new Bogaty, Oyukly, Davaly, and Godinskaya gas deposits," said Marat Rahymov, the administration's chief geophysicist, to a Turkmen press correspondent.

Administration experts are continuing to prospect the oil and gas reserves in the Sabur, Shorkazy, Babash, and Kutlayak areas of Akhal Region. They expect that 7.5 billion cubic meters of gas and 3.5 million tonnes of oil are contained there.

Natural Gas Development Cited as Key Economic Task

LD0312084594 Ashgabat TURKMENISTAN in Turkmen 25 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashkhabad, 25 Nov—Today a regular meeting on important issues of the economic development of our country took place at the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan. Developing natural gas next year is one of the important tasks. Having listened to a report by Khekim Ishanov, deputy prime minister and minister of oil and gas, President Saparmurad Niyazov instructed that proper measures be undertaken when concluding contracts with foreign countries on the export of Turkmen gas which is one of the main sources of the country's income. We cannot always listen to the arguments of debtors especially when the contracts signed are openly violated, we cannot accept a situation when contracts are neglected the president noted.

Above all we must be concerned with the welfare of our people and country, he said. He demanded that great attention be paid to the matters of stabilizing the financial and economic situation. In line with it he noted that it is necessary to implement the budget exactly and he set relevant tasks to his cabinet.

He also instructed his deputies in the government to prepare thoroughly when concluding contracts of any type and conduct an obligatory expert examination.

The president required managers to fulfill their duties exactly and in a disciplined way and noted that failures in work sooner or later will harm the economic independence of our country. Saparmurad Niyazov pointed out that the new market relations require a considerable decrease in the production of resources which do not require much capital investment. In line with this he gave instructions and set specific tasks.

Other matters of further strengthening the financial and economic situation in our country were also discussed at the meeting.

Uzbekistan

President Previews Agenda for CSCE Summit

LD0412180494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1738 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Uzbekistan is to make proposals on ways of stabilizing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and tackling the regional environmental-protection problems during the CSCE's forthcoming summit, Uzbek President Islam Karimov said on the eve of his departure to Budapest on Sunday [4 December] to attend the event.

"The CSCE's main mission is to protect human rights and freedoms, build a democratic society, help developing countries to create a market economy, establish cooperation between international organizations and prevent the unilateral revision of the borders," he told journalists in the airport. Uzbekistan adheres to all of these principles, he said.

Karimov Stresses CSCE Role for Central Asia

LD0512094994 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1300 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov left for Budapest today to participate in a session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Our correspondent Gofur Jamolov participated in the ceremony of seeing off the head of state and produced a report, which you will now hear:

[Begin recording] [Jamolov] The CSCE is the most influential and important organization after the United Nations. It engages in ensuring security and human rights, preventing conflicts, protecting the environment, and in economic and cultural relations, not only within

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Europe but also in the rest of the world. For this reason 53 countries, including Uzbekistan, are involved in the association.

We asked our head of state to tell us what initiatives and proposals the Republic of Uzbekistan is take to the conference in Budapest on 5 and 6 December, and about relations between Uzbekistan and the European association in general.

[Karimov] Why does Uzbekistan need the CSCE? We live in Asia, so why do we participate in this European council? First, it is a way of establishing Uzbekistan's own authority, because it is the most influential and authoritative council after the United Nations. From this point of view, active participation in its work creates a possibility for every state to cooperate on equal terms with the largest and most developed countries, and to pursue its aims and make a contribution.

The third [as heard] basic question we face is that we too are building an open democratic state, and of course we need the help of developed states. This should be said openly. No state has built its future using only its own resources. At the moment, we really need the assistance of developed states which have a democratic system: investment, cultural, humanitarian, all kinds, any help we can get.

The third issue is that if one considers the situation, the area around Uzbekistan, keeping our borders inviolate.... [Karimov pauses] When we see the state of affairs in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.... [Karimov pauses] What I want to say is that this council, with its role in establishing peace, calm, and stability in this region of Central Asia and in ensuring security for people, is essential as air and water to us. This is because the most developed states, the most powerful states, the most authoritative states participate in this council. If we too possess equal rights in our region, we intend to set ourselves such tasks, and if we want to attract their attention to these, this will undoubtedly be profitable in every way, and it will be an authoritative way of ensuring our security.

The main aim of Uzbekistan's delegation taking part in the Budapest meeting of the council, the council session, is to attract attention to current affairs in Central Asia.

Another question which I have not mentioned—an essential and vital task of the council—is that of ecology. That is why they are rendering considerable assistance for the tragedy of Uzbekistan, the tragedy of the Aral Sea, the tragedy for our land as a whole—for the whole of Central Asia, not just Uzbekistan—to assign the ecology issue its proper place, from the point of view of protecting people's health. I am personally making my goal the expansion of this assistance, and generally reinforcing the care that is taken of the Aral tragedy.

Another issue is that after the disintegration of the former USSR, some countries miss the old days, and one can see that their actions in this direction are clearly obvious. From this point of view, from the point of view of participation in the council, the council's prevention of some actions, which we might say would be undesirable for us and the protection of our independence, this council certainly carries great authority and represents a great opportunity for us. If such an authoritative and influential council shows concern for protecting our security, we will have profited from this point of view.

[Jamolov] The president was seen off at Tashkent airport by acting Supreme Council Chairman Erkin Khalilov, Prime Minister Abdulhashim Mutalov, First Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Jorabekov, presidential state advisers Temur Alimov and Bakhtiyor Gulamov, and Tashkent Mayor Kozim Tulyaganov. [end recording]

Ethnic Uzbeks Suffer as Country Cuts Gas to Bishkek

MK0312104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Dec 94 p 5

[Report by Irina Gribova under the "Debts" rubric: "Uzbekistan Pulls Gas Plug on Kirgizia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been one week since the Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan] capital Bishkek, and territories bordering on Uzbekistan—Osh, Uzgen, and Dzalalabad Oblasts—have been experiencing an acute shortage of gas. The reason is Uzbekistan's turning off the gas supply with no prior warning for nonpayments.

Under an agreement between the governments on trade and economic cooperation in 1994 signed 16 January during Islam Karimov's visit to Bishkek, Uzbekistan is to pump to Kirgizia 1.4 billion cubic meters of gas worth $91 million. According to Uztransgaz, by 1 October Uzbekistan had delivered to the neighbor republic 688 million cubic meters of gas. It should be noted that 98 percent of Uzbek imports to Kirgizia is precisely natural gas. Whereas Kirgiz imports to Uzbekistan include more than 10 commodities: glass, roofing slate, electric bulbs, woolen fabrics, meat, butter, and so on—worth $102 million.

As of 1 October, Uzbekistan imported from Kirgizia products worth $37.3 million, and exported products worth $42.5 million. The balance of $5.2 million constitutes the debt incurred for the use of gas the supply of which has been stopped by Uzbekistan.

The president of Uzbekistan declined to comment on the conflict, stating that the matter is completely in the hands of the Uzbekneftegaz corporation.

It should be noted that those who mostly suffer from cold these days in Kirgizia are ethnic Uzbeks, a considerable number of whom live in the areas deprived of gas.

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Farms Allowed To Sell Surplus Cotton Abroad

LD0212185094 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Rendering Assistance to Farms in the Export of Cotton Fiber Left at Their Disposal

With the aim of rendering necessary assistance to farms in selling on foreign markets the cotton fiber left at their disposal, namely 33 percent of the plan and cotton in excess of the plan, the Cabinet of Ministers decrees:

1. The State Committee for Forecasting and Statistics, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan are by 1 January 1995 to present to the Cabinet of Ministers records of the volume of cotton fiber of the 1994 harvest left at the disposal of farms. According to the results of processing of the cotton fiber of the 1994 harvest, the necessary amendments should be made to these records.

2. Uzgoskhlopkoprombyt [Uzbek state cotton industry] is to ensure the immediate processing of cotton left at the disposal of farms and transport cotton fiber for export in accordance with contracts concluded with farms.

Karakalpak republican and regional associations for selling cotton fiber left at the disposal of farms are to coordinate the work and render assistance to farms in supplying it for export.

3. The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to ensure the speedy issue of export licenses for cotton fiber left at the disposal of farms. The state joint-stock company Uzbek Railways and the State Tax Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan are to solve efficiently questions connected with the shipment of and customs formalities for cotton delivered by farms to foreign partners.

4. The Ministry of Finance and the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan are to render the necessary assistance to farms opening hard currency accounts, help every farm to have its own hard currency account and supervise the speedy transfer of money to the hard currency accounts of farms and the settling of accounts with the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with established procedure.

5. Supervision of the implementation of this resolution is laid on the appropriate deputy prime ministers.

[signed] [President] Islam Karimov, chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers

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Armenia

Armenia Starts Receiving Russian Gas

LD0412182094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian gas started arriving in Armenia today. As a RIA correspondent was told at the press service of the Armenian Government, this became possible after a telephone conversation between Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. It is planned that the gas from Russia will be supplied to Armenia until the Turkmen gas starts being delivered to the Transcaucasus republic.

World Armenian Congress Meets in Moscow

NC0212204494 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1608 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 02/12/94 (NOYAN TAPAN) [dateline as received]—On 1 December, the World Armenian National Congress organized by the International Armenian Assembly (IAA) started its work in Moscow. The agenda of the Congress includes such issues as:

1) Unification of the Armenian Diaspora of the world

2) Restoration of the connections between Armenian communities, establishment of centers of cultural and scientific information.

The forum will work up to 7 December. During these days the primary problems that the Armenian people currently faces will be discussed. On the first day of its work the Congress voted for the statute of the World Armenian Assembly (WAA). The President of the IAA Serzh Jilavian was also elected the President of the WAA. According to the draft of the statute, the WAA is established with a purpose to coordinate the actions and cooperation of different Armenian communities in the process of solving ethnic and other kinds of problems. The primary goals and tasks of the WAA are:

a) Representation and defense of rights and interests of the Armenian communities, organizations and individuals

b) Promotion of cooperation among communities, organizations and individuals of different parts of the Diaspora and historical motherland

c) Cooperation with social and state-supported organizations of different nations

d) Aid to Armenia and Mountainous Karabakh in the spheres of economics, science, technology, culture, information and others.

"Our salvation is only in our unification. By strengthening the Diaspora, we will save the Motherland—this is the purpose that has gathered us here," Serzh Jilavian stated at the forum.

NOYAN TAPAN Commentary: The IAA was founded on June 22 of 1993 in Moscow. It is a social and national organization that does not have any political and ideological inclinations.

Foreign Minister Leaves for NATO, CSCE Meetings

NC0212183194 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1159 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR" daily-PAST), 12/02/94—According to press service of RA [Republic of Armenia] Foreign Ministry, Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahan Papazyan has left for Brussels to participate in a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization member-countries.

According to the agreement with RA representatives in NATO, Mr. Papazyan will discuss the possibilities of peaceful resolution of conflicts in Europe with foreign ministers of several countries. The Armenian delegation includes Ambassador of RA to Great Britain Armen Sargisyan, Armenian Charge d'Affairs and Councilor Grigor Badalyan, Chairman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretariat Karen Nazaryan.

Later on, Papazian will join the delegation of Levon Ter-Petrosian, to participate in a session of CSCE to be held in Budapest on December 5 and 6. Then Armenian foreign minister will leave for Geneva with a working visit. Several meetings with Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Kosti are planned, to discuss political resolution of the Karabakh conflict and problems related with opening an Armenian embassy in Switzerland. He will be accompanied by the Ambassador A. Sargisyan.

In mid-December a delegation, headed by Papazyan will make an official visit to Greece, to negotiate with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and other officials. A preliminary agreement about friendship and collaboration, as well as several agreements on scientific collaboration, to avoid double taxation, on air transportation and international cargo transportation will be signed. These agreements are then to be affirmed by presidents of the two republics.

Delegation of RA Foreign Ministry also plans to visit Israel in the second half of December. The delegation will include Minister of Agriculture Ashot Voskanyan, Chairman of the RA Central Bank Bagrat Asatryan, Ambassadors Armen Sargisyan and Eduard Nalbandyan, Chairman of the Foreign Department Henrik Grigoryan. Intergovernmental agreements on collaboration in culture, science and education are planned to be signed. The sides will also discuss possible collaboration in other fields. Papazyan will also meet representatives of Armenian communities.

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Azerbaijan

President Aliyev To Attend CSCE Summit

LD0412104794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0846 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku December 4 TASS—President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan leaves for Budapest by air on Sunday [4 December] to attend the third summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), to be held on December 5-6.

Baku particularly appreciates participation in such a widely- representative summit, primarily from the viewpoint of increasing the activity of the CSCE and its Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh, a spokesman at the press service of the Azerbaijani president told ITAR-TASS.

Azerbaijan comes out in favour of attaching a peacekeeping force to this authoratitive international organisation to disengage warring sides and settle the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict as a whole, the spokesman said.

Party Head Appeals to Yeltsin, Butrus-Ghali on Chechnya

NC0112193694 Baku TURAN in English 1453 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, December 1 (TURAN)—Due to events talking place in Ganja the Head of Azerbaijan's Democratic Party (ADP) Sardar Jalapoglu appealed on behalf of the Council of Heads of the Democratic Congress to the president of Russia Boris Yeltsin and the UN General Secretary Butrus-Ghali.

The appeal to Yeltsin reads that such a situation, according to the bloody scenario, runs counter not only to the interests of Chechen people, but also to the people of Russia. "We support and appreciate your support of democratic reforms in Azerbaijan," reads the appeal. The appeal also contains the hope that the Chechen conflict can be solved peacefully by political and diplomatic means. "We share and highly appreciate the desire of Chechen people towards freedom, which had been under the repressions and departures [deportations] several times. We do not support the solution of the problem by using force," reads the document. There is also a hope that Russian president will do his best for improving the situation and will display a wisdom and respect to the international law, human rights and independence of Chechen people.

The appeal of the Democratic Congress to the UN General Secretary reads that a tragic drama is taking place in the Caucasus. "Not numerous Chechen people, repressed and departed several times is again under the threat of elimination," said leader of ADP. According to him, world community remains indifferent to all facts of violation the international law, suppression of democratic freedom and human rights."

According to Jalapoglu, the events in the region may end by the elimination of scanty [minority] peoples. Events in Chechnya can involve into all these processes the countries which are close to Chechnya by ethnic and religion. That will mean the appearance of one more large-scaled hot-bed in the Caucasus, reads the appeal. Political parties entering ADC consider it reasonable to settle the "Chechnya problem" under the control of the UN and the attraction to the solution of that problem the UN international forces, according to Charter.

State of Emergency Extended in Baku

LD0212145594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku, 2 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The National Assembly of Azerbaijan today decided to extend the state of emergency in Baku for another two months. It was introduced here on 3 October by decree of President Geydar Aliyev when the situation in the capital deteriorated following the coup d'etat attempt.

According to parliament's decision, the special regime of entry to and exit from the city will be continued and the ban on mass meetings, demonstrations, parades, and strikes will be maintained. The activities of political parties and movements are restricted. The campaign to confiscate illegal weapons from the population will continue.

Parliament Adopts Bills on Oil Deal, State of Emergency

NC0212195294 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Exchanges of views were held on two issues important to Azerbaijan at today's session of the National Assembly.

Following the ratification of the agreement signed between the Western oil consortium and the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, this time around the deputies expressed their views on amendments and addenda specified in the provisions of this agreement. It was noted that though the consent of all the signatory states to these provisions has been obtained, real superiority still rests with the Azerbaijani state and, as the owner of its own wealth, our country will work to secure some of its demands. Taking into account the observations of the deputies on the provisions, which at first glance created uneasiness, the bill was discussed paragraph by paragraph. Finally, the bill was adopted on the endorsement, ratification, and implementation of the agreement

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signed between our republic's oil company and leading Western oil consortium on the joint exploitation of and the division of shares in the oil production in Azeri, Chirak and Guneshli fields in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea.

Next, the deputies expressed their views on the president's decree on the extension of the state of emergency that has already been in force in Baku for the past two months. The presidential decree on the extension of the state of emergency for 60 days was ratified without debate for the sake of the security of us all and for the territorial integrity and stability of Azerbaijan.

Parliament Considers Bill on Western Oil Agreement

NC0212194194 Baku TURAN in English 1455 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, December 2 (TURAN)—Today the Milli Mejlis has discussed two issues at the proposal of Rasul Guliyev. At the beginning the Speaker said that participants of oil consortium consider the ratification of the contract in the parliament insufficient. According to them, there should be not only a ratification, it should have the form of law, as the law on oil has not been yet adopted in Azerbaijan.

A draft of the law on ratification the oil contract between SOCAR [State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic] and Western consortium was submitted to the parliament. According to Rasul Guliyev the authors of the bill are the French Judicial Company and Azeri lawyers. Deputy Etibar Mamedov opposed adoption of the law. He said that the ratification of the contract by the Milli Mejlis had already the form of law and besides, the bills could be submitted by the president, speaker, deputies and the Cabinet. The discussion between Rasul Guliyev and Etibar Mamedov lasted more than two hours. At last the Speaker has proposed that bill on behalf of his own name and after that the deputies voted for the adoption of that law. The Milli Mejlis has also confirmed the Presidential Decree on prolonging the state of emergency in Baku for additional 60 days.

Georgia

Opposition Leader Dies After Armed Attack

LD0312101594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning an armed attack was carried out on the car of Georgiy Chanturiya, chairman of the opposition National Democratic Party of Georgia [NDPG], in one of the central districts of Tbilisi.

Our correspondent, Nikolay Mumalashvili, reports that the attack took place outside the NDPG leader's house. Chanturiya was in the car with his wife Irina Sarishvili, a member of the Georgian parliament, and two NDPG members when the attack took place. According to preliminary information given by the duty officer at Tbilisi's police headquarters, a VAZ-2106 white vehicle without number plates stopped near the opposition leader's car. Two people stepped out of the vehicle and fired at Georgiy Chanturiya's car at point blank range. All the people in his car received wounds and were taken to the republican hospital where Georigiy Chanturiya died from his wounds.

Shevardnadze Comments on Murder

LD0312154694 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1425 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The following is a statement from the Georgian head of state.

Georgia was shot once again today. As a result of a horrifying act, Giorgiy Chanturiya, chairman of the National-Democratic Party, was killed and a member of the party's chief committee and presidium, Irina Sarishvili, was seriously wounded. This act was carried out against people who were in the forefront of the national liberation movement in Georgia and have struggled tirelessly for the country's interests, reforms and democracy.

This act cannot be viewed as an isolated incident. This tragedy bears the unmistakable hallmark of the villains who perpetrated previous terrorist acts. However, the significance and severity of this latest attack makes it the most horrifying one. All this shows that there is a force in Georgia which is not interested in the establishment of peace and stability. This act, committed by enemies of Georgia, is not directed only against the National-Democratic Party, which has always been at the forefront of political life in Georgia. It also proves that certain forces wish to suppress the activity of democratic forces in Georgia and provoke further chaos and destabilization against the background of a complex socioeconomic situation.

[passage indistinct] The law-enforcement bodies should do everything possible and impossible to solve this crime without delay, put a permanent end to terrorist acts and finally establish what kind of forces benefit from such incidents.

Blames Organized Crime

LD0312181194 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Georgian 1630 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following is a statement from the Georgian head of state:

Yet another terrorist act has been carried out. Yet another deadly attack has been carried out against people struggling for freedom and the building of a democratic state in Georgia. This time it was carried out against prominent political figures Gia Chanturia and Irina Sarishvili.

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Their car was riddled with bullets in front of their house.

Giorgi Chanturia died on the spot, while kalbatoni Irina Sarishvili was seriously wounded. Two other members of the National Democratic Party were also wounded.

Everything must be done to save them.

Everything must be done for kalbatoni Irina to return to the political arena. Everything must be done for them and the National Democratic Party to continue their uncompromising struggle for a free Georgia and the ideals for which Gia Chanturia, who was my young friend and one of the most remarkable participants in the extremely complex process of building a democratic Georgia, gave his life.

Gia fell victim to this struggle.

What happened could not have happened in a civilized country based on law.

This terrorist act, which together with the assassinations of recent years will remain a stigma on modern Georgian history, clearly shows that the forces wishing to turn Georgia into a country of murderers and bandits and to provoke further chaos and destabilization against the background of a complex socioeconomic situation are still presenting the state with serious problems. This wave of terror is directed against the independence and democratic development of Georgia.

This horrible crime as well as earlier terrorist acts were committed by a group of organized criminals.

What happened requires proper assessment and reaction. The law-enforcement bodies must find the criminals as soon as possible. The whole of Tbilisi and Georgia should join forces.

The time has come when we should deal with these irreconcilable enemies with full severity and without compromise to save the country and democracy.

It must be stressed that this inhumane crime was timed to coincide with the congress of the National Democratic Party. It seems that there are forces in Georgia who would not benefit from the activity of parties and political organizations which are actively involved in the building of a democratic Georgian state.

I express condolences to the participants in the congress of the National Democratic Party over this heavy loss. I hope that the National Democratic Party will not falter at a time like this and will continue its dignified struggle for the freedom of Georgia.

I would like to sympathize with Gia Chanturia's family, who lost a beautiful son, husband and father.

I would like to sympathize with the whole of Georgia.

Georgia must be proud of such sons.

Georgia must look after such sons.

Shevardnadze Chairs Emergency Meeting, Cancels CSCE Trip

LD0312150794 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1430 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 3 Dec—Georgian Supreme Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze held an emergency meeting in connection with the attack on Giorgiy Chanturiya, chairman of the National-Democratic Party, and his wife Irina Sarishvili. Present at the meeting were Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, senior officials from the Interior Ministry, Security Service and Procurator's Office, speaker of parliament Vakhtang Goguadze, member of parliament Jaba Ioseliani, Tbilisi Mayor Niko Lekishvili, and other officials.

Shevardnadze opened the meeting; participants in the meeting discussed operational measures that would lead to the arrest of the criminals. On the suggestion of law-enforcement bodies, it was decided that the state would give a considerable reward to people whose substantive information would help the investigation to solve the assassination.

In connection with the incident, Shevardnadze has canceled his visit to the CSCE summit in Budapest.

Shevardnadze Notes Concern for 'Horrible War' in Caucasus

LD0312122594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 3 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Abrosimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sofia December 3—Georgian Leader Eduard Shevardnadze had expressed deep concern over the situation in the Caucasus. If conflicts in that region are not settled, he said in an interview with the Bulgarian newspaper 24 HOURS, published on Friday [2 December], "a horrible war may break out in the Caucasus." In his opinion, the "peculiarities of the region" are one of the reasons for it.

The Georgian leader mentioned relations with Abkhazia, dwelling on the fact of the election of its president. He believes it was "absolute stupidity" on the part of Abkhazians. He said he was not going to hold any talks with them. In the opinion of the Georgian leader, that step was harmful both for Georgia and Abkhazia.

When asked whether his republic took pany steps in the past to purchase arms from Bulgaria for waging a war against Abkhazia, Shevardnadze said no talks had been held on that subject. But he added with a smile that "if arms are sent from Bulgaria, I will not object to it." Shevardnadze reiterated his desire to visit Bulgaria, but said he could not do it now because of the problems facing his country. He is not afraid he will share the destiny of Gorbachev, but added that "if I feel the time has come for me to go, I will do it immediately."

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Parliament Rejects Motion to Suspend Abkhazia Agreements

LD0212164394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Georgian parliament rejected Thursday [1 December] night a Republican Party motion under which all agreements on a peaceful settlement in Abkhazia would be suspended.

The party leader Vakhtang Khmalandze told INTERFAX that after the latest moves of Abkhazian separatists the Georgian parliament simply had to pass this resolution, especially so because the resolution called for suspending rather than cancelation of the documents.

He believed that the parliamentary majority which supported Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze acted shortsightedly.

Destroyed Bridge Cuts Rail Link With Armenia

LD0312103694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The SNARK agency has learned that a bridge over the Khrami river was blown up last night. According to the press center of the Armenian state directorate for emergency situations, train services between Georgia and Armenia have been halted because of this incident.

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Estonia

Economic, Trade Accord Initialled With Turkey

LD0212144794 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today an economic and trade agreement between Estonia and Turkey was initialed. This has been reported to Baltic News Service by Juri Arusoo, the Estonian Foreign Ministry's press representative. On behalf of Estonia, Priit Pallum, head of the Foreign Ministry's foreign economic policy department, had been authorized to do the initialing. On the Turkish side, it was the head of the Turkish Finance and Customs Ministry's agreements department. An Estonian-Turkish agreement on the protection of investments was initialled last year already. It will now depend on the visit of a suitable-level delegation to either Estonia or to Turkey as to when the agreements are actually concluded, Juri Arusoo added.

Consolidation Party Chairman Visits London

LD0312185994 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tiit Vahi, the chairman of the Consolidation Party has returned from his visit to London on invitation from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. During his visit, Vahi met high-ranking Foreign Office officials and also representatives of the main parties. Vahi gave an overview of Estonia's internal politics and foreign policy aspirations. The chairman of the Consolidation Party emphasized Estonia's desire to join the European Union as soon as possible and hoped that Britain would support this desire in any way.

In conversation with a deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, Vahi briefed him on the principles of the Consolidation Party program, which are close to the views of the British Conservative Party. Therefore, it is quite natural that the ties between the two parties are to be continued.

Vahi had an extremely successful meeting with representatives of over 30 British enterprises. The British-Baltic Chamber of Commerce is to organize a visit by the British trade mission to Estonia in January 1995.

Vahi also attended a reception by Lord Mayor of London Christopher Walford, where there was discussion of British-Estonian relations and also the forthcoming visit of the lord mayor of London to Tallinn in March 1995.

Luik: Baltic Membership in NATO in Russia's Interest

LD0212223294

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian at 1800 GMT on 21 December carries a three-minute interview with Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik. Luik took part in the meeting of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, and he gave an interview to Estonian Radio in Brussels today about the NATO-Russian cooperation program.

Responding to an Estonian Radio reporter who asked Luik about his previous statement that Russia would also benefit if the Baltic states were to belong to NATO, Juri Luik said: "Yes, I think so. My opinion is that the states which are NATO members feel that their security is guaranteed, therefore they have fewer fears, and possibly also fewer pseudo-fears—those fears which states that feel their security environment is unstable do have."

Western Reports of Kroon's Devaluation Denied

LD0212163294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bank of Estonia is against the devaluation of the national currency, the kroon, whose official exchange rate since June 20, 1992 is "linked" to the deutschmark at eight kroon to one deutschmark.

The bank's spokesman Kaupo Pollisinski told the Financial Information Agency on Friday that there are no grounds for the kroon's devaluation from the point of view of the actual situation in the republic's economy.

He said that on December 1 the Bank of Estonia released a statement expressing concern over news articles in Britain, Finland and Sweden foreseeing the likely devaluation of the kroon as well as over the rumors spreading recently in Estonia's political circles. Pollisinski believes that some political parties are attempting to use speculation about a possible fall in the kroon's value for certain political ends in light of election campaigns (elections to the Estonian State Assembly are scheduled for March).

Export, Import, Trade Deficit Figures Reported

WS0512114494 Tallinn ETA in English 1852 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The export of goods from Estonia increased 4.2 percent in October this year as compared to September while the import increased 5.2 percent. The foreign trade deficit of Estonia in October was one of the highest this year, being 523.5 million kroons ($42.2 million), having been higher only in January and July, Bank of Estonia informed ETA on Sunday [27 November]. [passage omitted]

The main causes of foreign trade deficit in October were import of machinery and equipment, mineral products, metals, products of chemical industry and plastics.

Re-export and temporary export constituted 30.5 percent of the export of goods, from import 17 percent was taken by temporary import and re-import.

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Although export in a number of groups of goods increased, the export of food products (mainly to Russia and the Ukraine) fell 17.2 percent, export of textiles fell 11 percent, export of machinery and equipment fell 6.5 percent.

Both the import and export of machinery and equipment has increased for the whole year. Among this group of goods the first place is taken by equipment of processing and forwarding information, thus Estonia is a mediator of these goods from Western countries to former Soviet Union republics, Bank of Estonia says.

The increase of export of timber continued: in October it increased another 9.5 percent. Export of vehicles increased 42.8 percent while their import fell 6 percent.

The import of goods increased in October mainly on the basis of two groups of goods—metals and metal products and machinery and equipment. The import of the first increased 51.5 percent (60 percent were imported from Finland and the United States), the second 24 percent. Similarly to export of groceries, their import fell also, although not as much (i.e. 5.3 percent). The import of mineral products, especially fuel, fell 17 percent. The groups of goods in which export exceeded import were timber, meat and milk products, furniture, sports goods and textiles.

In October Estonia's export to Russia fell, while export to Finland remained on the same level, which caused both states to have a similar share in Estonia's export. In import, the share of Finland continued to increase—in October 41.2 of all import to Estonia came from Finland. The share of Russia remained as before.

The influence of the Estonia car ferry catastrophe was expressed in trade with Sweden—export to Sweden fell in October 14.5 percent and import from Sweden 27 percent. Export to Germany fell 18 percent, while import from there increased for a third. [passage omitted]

Estonia had the greatest foreign trade deficit with Finland—in October it was 543.6 million kroons ($43.8 million). With Russia, the second important trade partner, the balance of trade was positive in October. The biggest surplus was still with Latvia, also with Lithuania and other former Soviet republics. With Germany and the United States the deficit increased, with Sweden the trade came in balance.

Parliamentary Elections Announced for 5 Mar

LD0412184294 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Lennart Meri has announced scheduled elections to the parliament in accordance with Article 60 of the Constitution. The elections will take place 5 March 1995.

Latvia

Expert Group on NATO Expansion Welcomed

LD0312145394 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Speaking at the North Atlantic Cooperation Council today, Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik said that Estonia welcomes the NATO decision to set up an expert group to define the conditions for the expansion of NATO, and emphasized that the expansion of NATO should take place hand in hand with the expansion of the European Union.

Speaking in Brussels, Juri Luik said that these two processes complement each other, although they may move at different speeds. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Juri Luik welcomed the setting up of the expert group and added that, of course, the expansion of NATO is a complicated issue. Estonia's concern is that membership by some could lead to an uncertain future for others. Therefore, Estonia is satisfied that NATO is approaching its expansion on an individual basis and that activities and efforts of every individual state are crucial in this issue. Juri Luik also supported NATO's final communique as a whole.

The speech by Foreign Minister Juri Luik also included an answer to the question from the Russian foreign minister about the need for NATO. Luik noted that NATO is not an obsolete creation of the cold war but a tool to preserve and support democracy. The same position was also expressed by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Parliament Passes Law on Radioactivity, Nuclear Safety

WS0212151594 Riga LETA in English 1251 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, December 2 LETA—The Saeima [parliament] of Latvia has passed the law on radioactivity and nuclear safety. The aim of the law is to protect the population and the environment from the harmful effect of ionizing radiation.

Starting December 31, 1994, those who possess or use sources of ionizing radiation are required to register and to be licensed by the radiation and nuclear safety inspection agency. The law provides the inspection agency with the power to shut down operations of radiation sources that do not require licensing if there are grounds to suspect that the ecology is in danger.

The law forbids the import of radioactive waste into Latvia.

The Ministry of Welfare will issue regulations on the maximum radiation exposure permitted and the control of radiation sources.

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Lithuania

Cooperation Discussed With British Defense Team

WS0512114894 Tallinn BNS in English 1741 GMT 2 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Dec 02, BNS—Lithuanian and British defense officials met in Vilnius this week to sum up cooperation results and to discuss future defense projects, the Lithuanian Defense Ministry's spokeswoman Lolita Zegeriene reported.

One of the projects initiated by Great Britain is aimed at attracting more civilians for work in the defense structures of former Eastern bloc nations. The practice is common in the West, but still unpopular in a majority of post-communist countries, Zegeriene said.

On Friday, Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius received a group of British defense officials, headed by Paul Tipple, chief of the Central and Eastern European Directorate at the British defense ministry.

Linkevicius emphasized the significance of the work done by British experts in the Lithuanian system of defense. Britain intends to continue such cooperation by sending a civilian expert for work in the International Relations Department of the Lithuanian Defense Ministry.

In October, Linkevicius and his British counterpart Malcolm Rifkind signed a memorandum on defense cooperation. The accord covers cooperation in administration and defence policy and the exchange of information.

President Leaves for Budapest CSCE Summit

LD0412212694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas left for Budapest today to take part in the summit meeting of the CSCE states.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys, Justas Paleckis, the president's adviser on foreign policy, and other high ranking officials are in the Lithuanian delegation.

After the summit the Lithuanian president will visit Prague at the invitation of Czech President Vaclav Havel.

The Lithuanian president is expected to return to Vilnius on 7 December.

Spokesman Denies Lithuanians Involved in Chechnya

LD0412140694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1233 GMT 4 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vilnius, 4 Dec—(Vilyus Kavalyauskas), Lithuanian government spokesman on press relations, today denied media reports about Lithuanian mercenaries or volunteers being involved in the military conflict in Chechnya with the tacit consent of the authorities.

At the same time he did not deny the possibility that Lithuanians lured by money or for other reasons might be involved in Chechen events.

In answer to a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he said: "If private Lithuanian citizens have gone to Chechnya at their own initiative with that aim in mind—and the government does not know of any—or if certain supporters of our republic's right wing opposition are too zealous in their support for one side, then that is strictly their own business. The Lithuanian leadership's official policy is different."

"Lithuania, like all the other countries in the international community, has not recognized the state independence of the Chechen Republic," the Lithuanian spokesman said. At the same time, he added that the Lithuanian leadership "is of the opinion that all thorny issues between Chechnya and Russia, as well as inside Chechnya, should be settled through peaceful efforts instead of force."

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